

AN
A C C O U N T
OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS,
AND
P R E S E N T S T A T E,
OF THE
S O C I E T Y
FOR THE
DISCHARGE AND RELIEF
OF
PERSONS imprisoned for SMALL DEBTS,
throughout ENGLAND.

The TENTH EDITION.

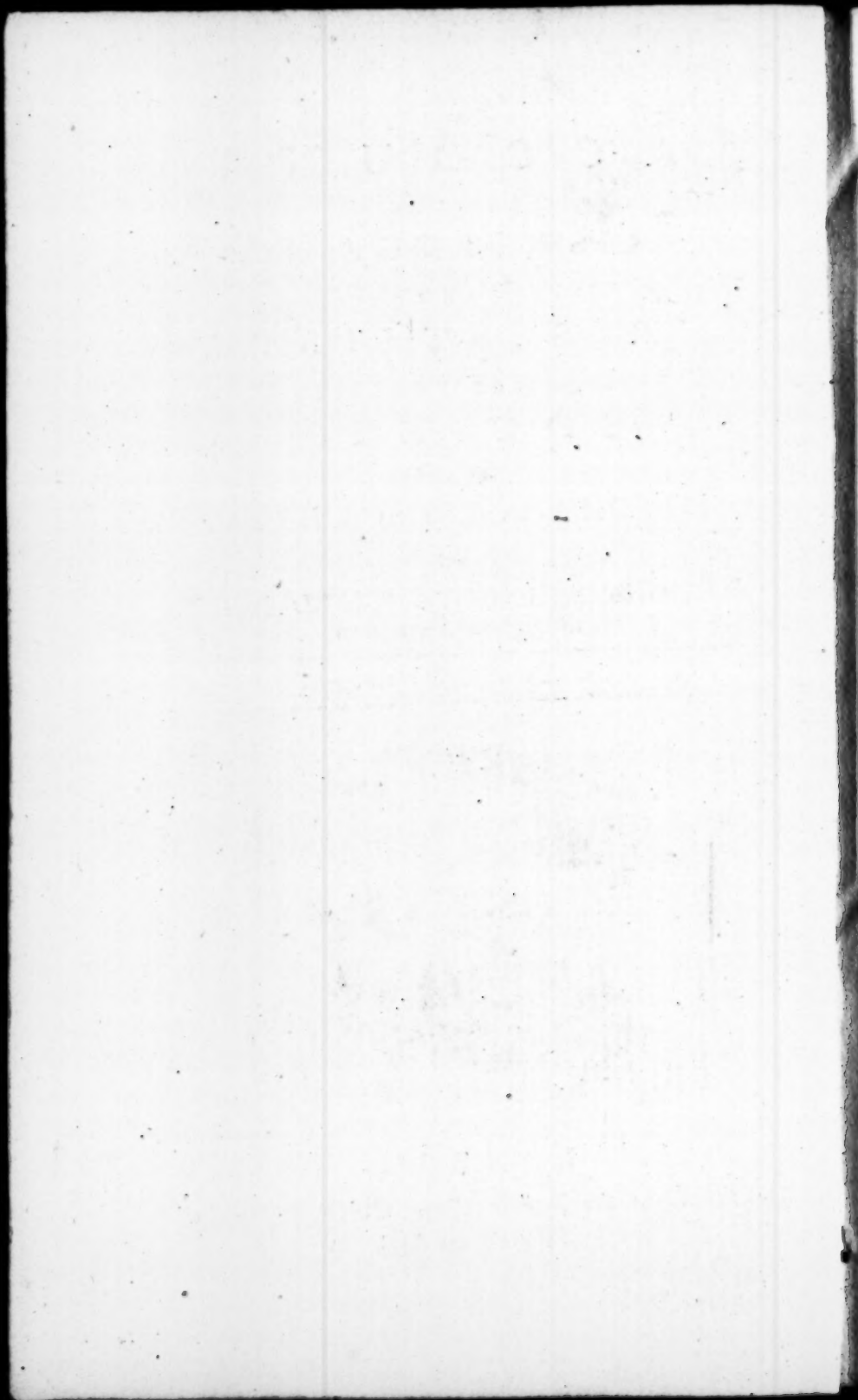


INSTITUTED FEB. 22 1772.

L O N D O N :

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AN ACCOUNT, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

THE present Charity derives its humble commencement from a Sermon preached at Charlotte Chapel, Pimlico, and at Bedford Chapel, Bloomsbury, in the month of February, 1772.

To afford relief for the miseries of those unfortunate persons, who are cruelly secluded from society by imprisonment for inconsiderable debts, was a powerful claim upon the Preacher's humanity. It had struck his own mind with the deepest compassion, and his arguments therefore failed not to communicate and impress the like tender feeling upon his respective audiences. The
A collection

collection then made amounted to *eighty one pounds and one shilling*. A general approbation of the idea was declared; and a set of Gentlemen readily formed themselves into a Committee, to search out proper objects, and distribute donations with the utmost œconomy.

The distress and extreme wretchedness to which they were eye-witnesses, on visiting the several gaols of the metropolis, strongly affected their sensibility; and the more so, as it was soon found that many other objects still remained undischarged, without the means of relief. They determined therefore to give the Public an account of their proceedings, in hopes that it might operate as an incitement to help forward so humane a purpose; and thus enable them to accomplish their wishes on a more extensive scale.

Accordingly, in April 1772, they advertised a report, specifying the manner in which they had expended the bounty of a few individuals; and “ that with *four score* pounds,

pounds, they had happily released *thirty-four* prisoners; most of whom had large families, and appeared to be worthy and useful members of society: Some of them were confined only for their fees, and the debts of others the Committee compounded upon the best terms they could. They expressed a great regret at the thought of leaving behind them various other imprisoned suppliants; nineteen of whom appeared to be the greatest objects of compassion, and might all be discharged for less than one hundred pounds; and of the rest many were evidently such as well deserved to share the mercy of the Public, if it were possible, by future contributions, to extend that blessing to them."

Their views were instantly seconded by a liberal and well-disposed Public. They soon found themselves enabled to reach out the hand of pity to a very large number of miserable sufferers in confinement; and early in May 1773,—within *fifteen months*, from the commencement of the undertak-

ing, the following was published as their

GENERAL ACCOUNT, *May 12, 1773.*

	£	s.	d.
Benefactions to this day —	2922	11	10
Disbursements, to discharge			
986 prisoners ———	2892	19	4
Leaving in their hands a	—————		
Balance of —	29	12	6

In the earliest infancy of their Plan, the Committee were hardly sanguine enough to expect so liberal an encouragement, and therefore did not at first take an accurate account of the Wives and Children of the Prisoners released. However, from an inspection of their books, it appears, that at the period in question, to the 986 Prisoners above mentioned as discharged, there belonged 566 Wives, and 2389 Children; making in all 3941 souls, essentially relieved by means of the public humanity.

Far the greater number of objects released were *Manufacturers, Seamen and Labourers*, whose usefulness, long cut off from
exercise

exercise by confinement, was thus restored to the community. The Charity, of course, was found to claim a serious attention, not merely from the avowed *humanity* of its purpose, but also from the *advantages* which it afforded to society at large; and which in a commercial country like ours, could not fail of striking conviction upon every judicious mind.

It likewise appeared, on a review of the Committee's books, that various considerable debts, to the amount of *twelve thousand* pounds and upwards, had been so compounded and reduced, as to bring the objects relieved, in those instances, within the scope of their first intention—and to which they have ever since invariably adhered; namely, to include “such Prisoners only, whose respective debts, or the *composition* for whose debts, should not exceed the sum of TEN POUNDS†.” By this means a two-fold benefit was secured:

A 3

For

• See Rules and Orders, Sect. VIII. Art. 1.

For, at the time of compounding such larger debts, the Committee constantly paid an equal attention to the peculiar circumstances both of the Creditor and his helpless Debtor.

A progress so rapid and animating, naturally gave ardour to the zeal of its conductors. It was considered indeed, and owned, as one of those great events from little causes, which lift the eye to Heaven in admiration, and expand the human heart. The rich cordial of benevolence was now largely flowing out, as upon a once barren soil, and *the desert became a fruitful field!*

Thus encouraged to persevere in the good work, the gentlemen originally concerned determined to omit no means of giving it dignity, stability and success: Application was accordingly made for that purpose: On the 5th of May, 1773, at a General Meeting of Benefactors, the SOCIETY was constituted as follows:

Rt.

Rt. Hon. Lord ROMNEY, *President.*

* Rt. Hon. Lord Chief

Baron, SMYTHE,

Rt. Hon. Lord Viscount

BEAUCHAMP,

* Rt. Hon. Mr. Justice

NARES,

JOHN THORNTON, Esq.

Mr. NEILD, *Treasurer,*

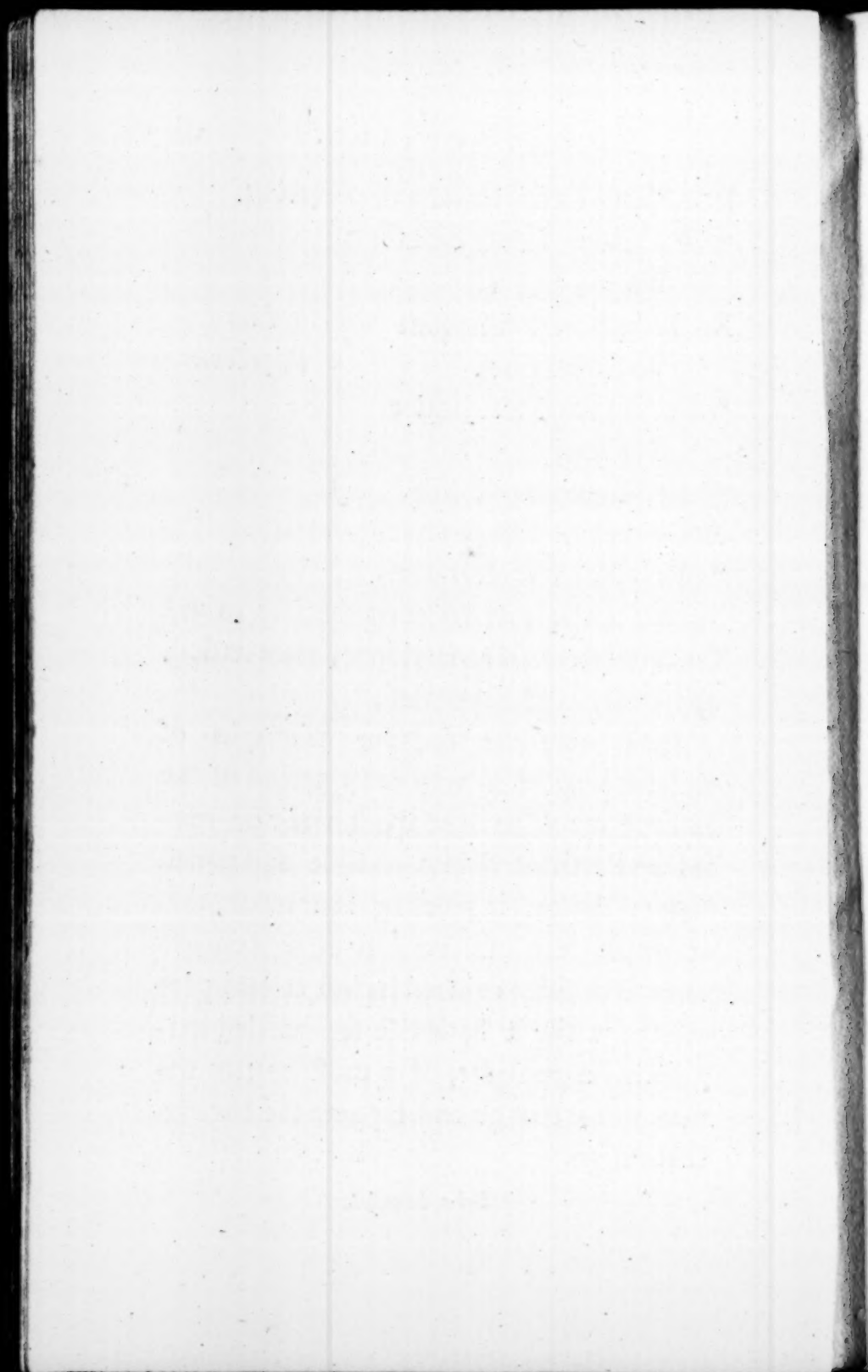
* Mr. NELME, *Secretary.*

*Vice
Presidents.*

And at the same Meeting the RULES and ORDERS hereafter mentioned, were settled, approved, and confirmed,

Such were the singular triumphs of philanthropy at a very early period of the Institution: The little spark was now roused and animated into a wide and genial flame: And it is pleasing to remark, that an experience of now *more than seventeen years* hath fully evinced its justice and propriety; while it hath also superadded many other arguments, of a most cogent nature, to encourage and support the benevolent design.

*** Since deceased.



A C C O U N T
OF THE
S O C I E T Y
FOR THE
DISCHARGE AND RELIEF
OF
PERSONS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND
IMPRISONED FOR SMALL DEBTS.

THE laws of our country have amply provided for the relief of *considerable* Debtors. The man, who engages for thousands which he cannot pay, may have a ready resource in bankruptcy; he resigns his all, and resumes, as it were, of course, his occupation and his credit. The man, who for the *necessaries* of life, and to supply a dependant family, runs a few pounds, or only a few shillings in debt, is cruelly arrested, torn from his home, and his business, and plunged in a prison,

has neither the ability, nor a ray of hope afforded him to defray his Creditor's demands ! Look upon the books of our Society, and you will learn, that *Manufacturers, Mechanics, Labourers, Seamen*, and other useful members of the meaner, but essential branches of Trade and Commerce, whether in Town or County Gaols ; whether natives, or foreigners in distress, have a sufficient claim to regard. The Committee always prefer the cases of those useful Artificers and Manufacturers who are burdened with the largest families ; men, who derive their sustenance from daily labour, but who, being cut off from that labour by imprisonment, must occasion a considerable loss to the Common-wealth, as they bring a heavy incumbrance upon others by the charitable maintenance which the families of such Prisoners must derive either from parochial or individual supply.

That imprisonment for debt is some how or other *unjust*, may be deduced from a comparative view of the Law, which suffers the Debtor,

Debtor, whose insolvency perhaps materially affects a very extensive circle, to enjoy freedom and impunity; whilst the Debtor, whose inconsiderable contracts cannot much affect any Creditor, is immured in a grievous and noisome prison.

In England, the peer only or the senator is exempt from personal arrests, and the consequent detention perhaps of many hours, by the evasion and artifices of bailiffs: Whereas if a person in any lower class of life owes, or if his creditor shall swear that he owes but Ten Pounds, that creditor may obtain a Writ, and by a false oath prevent his debtor from transacting business of the greatest importance to a numerous family, or of benefit to the State, and which may require the utmost expedition that very day or hour. Nay, and sometimes malice or revenge may be the only motive of the Creditor to arrest his Debtor, even before an account of his demand is delivered, without any previous application for payment,
and

and consequently without a possibility of refusal, or delay.

The payment of the whole sum at the instant of the arrest, is not sufficient to obtain immediate liberty, or to prevent an expensive and deplorable privation of it for many hours, or days, in case the Writ is unhappily issued out of the Sheriff's Office.

The Bailiffs often detain the Person arrested, to his present and future inconvenience, expence, discredit, and, probably his ruin, under a too common and iniquitous pretext, either of examining the Office—or because the Office is shut, as it happens to be at certain hours and days; so that if a man unfortunately or designedly is arrested on a Saturday at night, he must at least be subject to the impositions of a Spunging-house till the Monday following.

The Debtor's house or apartment is not always a refuge against malevolent arrests. He is liable to them in his own apartment; for, though our Laws prohibit a forcible opening of doors, the Bailiffs find means to evade that prohibition by indirect and unjust

unjust stratagems, by the bribery of servants, and even by force; of which instances often occur in this town.

Imprisonment for debt is in the highest degree *impolitic*; since many of the most useful and necessary Members of the State are thus secluded from performing their part in the community; and being deprived at once of their time and strength, become equally useless and burthensome. Nor is imprisonment for debt less *impolitic*, as it tends to increase those Parish rates, which already are so grievous a weight upon the community, that every man justly complains of them. But if the poor Manufacturer or Labourer, whose industrious hands provide his wife and numerous offspring with necessary bread, be shut up in prison, and withheld from labour, his wife and children must unavoidably become a heavy parochial incumbrance.

Among the many instances of this kind known to the Society, one man especially,
whom

whom they had set at liberty, had a wife and *ten children* unprovided for, who before his imprisonment were supported by his trade. His numerous family had been maintained during his confinement *entirely by the Parish*. What a burden to society at large! and how extensive, in this view, is the utility of the institution here recommended!

But the *ill-policy* of imprisonment for small debts deserves particular attention in another respect, namely, as being a pregnant source of those frequent and numerous *emigrations*, so prejudicial to our country. It has been justly observed, "That no nation produces so many fugitives for debt as the English; owing to the defects in our laws relative to arrests, and the encouragement thereby given to merciless creditors." Those fugitives establish manufactures abroad, in Asia, Africa, or America; thousands go thither every year, and thus contribute to depopulate this island. The apprehensions of a sudden and long
privation

privation of liberty on account of debt, without any previous summons, occasion more emigrations than is generally imagined; nor could they possibly happen, if a reasonable notice to debtors, by previous citation, were the mode ascertained or allowed by Law.

Now, if the practice of imprisonment for small debts appears so evidently *unjust* and *impolitic*, it must of course be prejudicial to Society; and as such, it must also be *inhuman*. We condescend not to add the epithet of *unchristian*; for, God knows, the practice in question breathes nothing in the least degree analogous to that mild and gentle law of love.

A poor fellow-creature, perhaps for the immediate support of life, amidst sickness, unavoidable losses, and disappointments, or perhaps through indiscretion, runs a few pounds in debt; but with whom?—his *fellow-creature*. He hath no other possible means to pay, than such as arise from his personal industry and manual labour.

The Creditor will have no mercy: the wretched victim is seized and thrown into prison; totally prevented from relieving himself, or doing justice to others; and is thus left to languish in confinement, till death, or some fortunate accident, shall bring him deliverance! What end can be answered by this? what good can it produce?—Every feeling of humanity reverts from the proceeding; and it will scarce be credited in this age and kingdom of philanthropy, that such cruelties have been exercised, from *man to man*, even for the mean, the paltry sum of *eighteen pence*; or that for *five shillings*, a subject of Great Britain's happy constitution might languish three calendar months amidst the felons of *Newgate*!—Our Books attest the fact*.

We

* This Grievance however is now redressed by Mr. Taylor's Court of Conscience Act. That it was not always so, the following is an instance. A person committed to the Gatehouse for 1s. 6d. was a poor, lame, industrious creature, who had not to pay; this miserable debtor was charged in execution, and the expences of the prosecution

We may go farther still, and, to the *injustice, ill policy, and inhumanity* of the proceeding, add its *immorality*. Nothing is so likely to contaminate the morals as a Gaol; into which, with whatever principles the unhappy debtor enters, he is compelled to associate with the vilest and most profligate; whereby good principles, by degrees, become relaxed, and he too soon adopts and copies the deportment of those with whom he is conversant. It is an old, but an indisputable truth, that *evil communications corrupt good manners*: and what the communications of a common prison are, who can doubt? So that by the inhuman practice of imprisonment, a man, not *guilty*,

secution increased the demand against him to *one pound five shillings and six-pence*! If the man could not pay *one and six-pence*, when at liberty, how was he to discharge this accumulated debt under confinement?—The poor are still frequently committed to Newgate by the Court of Conscience, for trifling sums, nay, sometimes even so low as from *nine and thirty shillings* to *one*. The process, in many cases, greatly enhances the original demand; but fees are now happily abolished.

ty, but *unfortunate*, incurs the hazard of that greatest and most destructive of all losses,—the loss of his integrity.

Another evil consequence of imprisonment for debt, deserves to be particularly attended to; viz. the *infamy*, which is too commonly imputed to it. To have been in a Gaol, however unjustly, is with many narrow-minded persons, a sufficient ground of reproach;—and indeed, according to the cruel opinion of the world in general, *criminality* is often considered as at no great distance from *misfortune*. This is a circumstance peculiarly lamentable in the case of those persons who are the objects of our present consideration; because reputation, with them, is not only the main support of their credit, but the very source of their employment and daily bread. Take this away, or materially depreciate it, and they will find it extremely difficult, with all their industry and desire of doing well, to meet with persons willing to engage them.—
 “The man is just come out of prison,”
 or,

or, " he has lain there for some time," are observations sufficient to blast all his honest designs. Thus we have another proof of the baneful effects of the imprisonment complained of: that " durance vile,"

Where Science languishes, and Merit mourns,
Arms, Arts and Talents suffer each by Turns;
Immur'd for Years,—or, what is worse, till Fame
With poison'd Breath pollutes the honest Name,—
The hapless Debtor is compell'd to share
His Weight of Anguish, and his Load of Care :
Distress'd, deserted, torpid with Surprise,
To Friend and Foe the hapless Man applies;
He seeks Relief, but seeks, alas ! in vain;
None heed his Complaints, or mitigate his Pain.
Depriv'd of Fame, in Expectation cross'd,
His Heart desponding, and his Fortunes lost;
By Want o'erwhelm'd, as once by Friends ensnar'd,
His Hopes abortive, and his Health impair'd ! *

But why then, it may well be asked, is a Practice so *unjust* and *impolitic*, so *inhuman* and *immoral*, so disgraceful to our laws and constitution, still countenanced amongst us ?

Lord

* Epistle to *Lord North* on Imprisonment for Debt.

Lord *Bacon* writes, that “no man could be arrested for debt in England, according to our constitution.” It is a Remark of Sir *William Temple*’s, “That detention for debt is greatly injurious to a nation; he therefore wishes that no such law or custom existed in this land of liberty:” and Lord Chancellor *Talbot* often declared, “That according to the principles of real humanity and good policy, the debtor sufficiently pays a debt of any sum by an imprisonment of three months*.”

One would hope that the opinions of three such great men are sufficient authorities, with all humane and patriotic Legislators, to induce them to propose and concur in a Law conformable to sentiments so truly judicious. The number of prisoners for any, but especially for *small debts*, is not only a disgrace to the national legislature, to humanity and the laws, but also a considerable

* This idea the Society have adopted as far as possibly they can, by proportioning their composition for debts to the length of time the debtor has been confined.

fiderable loss and prejudice, of some hundred thousand pounds every year, to the State and Community, upon due calculation*. And yet, in astonishing opposition to those great legislators, the common practice of the attornies and their colleagues continues to militate against common sense, equity and justice; equally injurious to the real welfare of the community in general, and of each individual debtor and creditor in particular.

The national *benevolence*, which hath given being to our Society, calls upon us thus to declare the result of its experience. Our books are continually open for the inspection of the public, as our meetings are to all gentlemen who wish to concur with us in the humane design of relieving the distressed, or of promoting a reformation with respect to those laws or customs which relate to the impolitic practice of imprisonment for debt.

Surely

* See the concluding Part of this Account.

Surely such a reformation is not less practicable in our own, than in any other country! Imprisonment, we have every reason to presume, may be so regulated, as to secure the creditor, and give stability to property; and, without all question, the wisdom of Legislation can as easily provide for the mutual advantage of creditor and debtor, in *smaller*, as in *greater* concerns. As matters at present are circumstanced, the creditor is little, if at all, more benefited by arrests and imprisonment than the debtor himself. Such at least is the case, if we may be allowed to judge by a long series of experience; from whence we are fully taught, that the end designed by the creditor (the recovery of his debt) is by no means obtained by the cruel methods of confinement.

Far the greater part of those who have been relieved by the public bounty through our means, have obtained their liberty either by a *composition* to their creditors, or by superseedeas, or by the payment of
 their

their *fees*; so that in various instances, their creditors have suffered the entire loss of the debt. We cannot help specifying a particular case, in confirmation of the above assertion. A young man about twenty-five years of age, who had a wife and five young children, had an employment in one of the public offices; he was arrested for several different sums, to the amount of a hundred pounds or more; and, as he had nothing to pay, he remained *fifteen* months in prison, totally deprived of employment, and then—all his actions were *superseded* by the Society for *Six Pounds*. Thus the *creditors* lost their several debts, and had their own attornies to pay besides; while the *debtor* lost fifteen months of the prime part of his life, and an employment, by which, with attention and industry, he might in time have been enabled to pay all his creditors, and support his unfortunate wife and infants!

It is to be feared that criminal reasons may sometimes influence the minds of creditors

ditors in the imprisonment of their debtors. Resentment, and a thirst of revenge, may incite some to have recourse to this dreadful mode of punishment; but passions of this sort should at all times be discountenanced; and the power of gratifying them never be put into the hands of individuals by the laws, because the only just and allowed end of imprisonment for debt is hereby absolutely defeated. Whilst we are tender of the creditor's property, we ought to be equally tender of the debtor's liberty; and to remember, as a counterbalance to the severity of *Justice* on one hand, that *Mercy* should hold the scale on the other.

If then the common practice of the law of arrests thus militates against the creditor's advantage, and if the *debtor* is even more cruelly punished by it, than the most notorious *malefactor*,—it surely is high time to provide some method, better adapted to the accommodation of both, as well as to the interests of *Society* in general.

As

As the laws of arrests and imprisonment for debt now stand, they certainly are a disgrace to our constitution; for by such means, actions not only the most unjust and injurious, but the most cruel and inhuman may be, and are daily practised. Under the sanction of those laws, the innocent man, who owes not a farthing, may be barbarously torn from his family, before any proof of guilt or wrong is, or can be given: He may even languish many months in confinement till the writ against him is returnable, without a possibility of redress; and at length, the plaintiff, who hath done him wrong, may either be beyond the reach, or unworthy the grasp of just retribution, while his innocent victim may have endured the greatest distress, attended with the most ruinous consequences! Several instances occur, and can be cited, of persons capable of making false affidavits of debt, who having procured a writ, arrest and imprison the pretended debtor, and then decamp, or be-

come insolvent. The prisoner must remain in confinement for many *months*, or two or three *terms*, before his release; and then, can have no damages for the perjury or false imprisonment, unless after a process at law, which he hath not money to engage in. No writ should be issued upon an affidavit only, nor ever *without the security of two substantial Housekeepers for the appearance of the Plaintiff at the trial, and his abiding by the decision of the Court.* This would prevent many a false oath, and false imprisonment, which horribly tend to the ruin of numbers, and the destruction of their families.

All such public and private national injuries therefore, arising either from caprice, malevolence, obstinacy, or even barbarity of Creditors, should be effectually prevented without delay, by the wholesome interposition of protecting Laws.

Many nations have such humane and prudent laws, particularly France, Flanders, Switzerland, Holland, &c. where

no person can be arrested for Debt without three previous Summonses ; and even not then in his own house, apartment, or shop, though the doors be open ; nor ever on a Sunday,—in order that the free exercise of moral and religious duties may not be obstructed by circumstances of a private, civil nature.

In a word, the present laws concerning arrests are enormously absurd, and injurious to the State, the Debtor, and the Creditor ; enriching only *Pettifoggers, Bailiffs, and Jailors*, who generally are the meanest, and most detestable of men. A new code therefore seems to be absolutely necessary, and may certainly be made consonant to Reason, to Equity, and the humane Policy of a free political Constitution.

According to the Laws of Scotland, no Person can be arrested for Debt without previous warning. The debtor must have fifteen days notice, by a summons to some certain court, and there have a fair hearing : If the debt be just, a caption is granted ;

but if, while under arrest, he pays or compromises the sum, he is immediately released; and cannot be detained a moment for the costs, which are always *solely* paid by the *creditor*, to prevent malevolent and illegal processes. If the debtor is imprisoned, he may inform his creditors, by a Public Notary, of his intention to take the benefit of the Queen's Act for Insolvent Debtors; and then, after an imprisonment of eight days, he goes before a magistrate, and makes a cession of all his effects, upon oath, which instantly releases him,—unless a revengeful creditor will *aliment* him, (as they term it) which must be done that very hour; and the magistrate is of course empowered to compel the creditor's allowance of *aliment*,—according to the birth, station, or family of the prisoner during his imprisonment,—at six, twelve, or eighteen-pence every day. Such, we are assured, are the Regulations of a Sister Country; whereas in England, the debtor is allowed only a *groat* a day, for which he must wait *three*

whole terms, which amount to nearly a *Year*: But debtors committed in execution by the Court of Conscience, can have NO allowance whatever. This circumstance has lately been represented in so strong a light to some of our humane and able Patrons, that we earnestly hope to extend benefit also to miseries of so cruel a kind, as even the Savages of Caffraria must execrate.

It will scarcely be believed, that in this kingdom, so justly applauded for its laws and liberty, such powers could possibly be lodged in the hands of individuals, as give them a pretext of right, in cases of arrest, over every thing but the *lives* of their fellow creatures. Let us however hope that such laws and such powers may not long exist; and happy will this Society deem it, should they at length be made instrumental to the abolition of a practice so *cruel, impolitic and unjust*;—the vilest opprobrium of our *Laws*, our boasted *Liberty*, and our *Christian Name*!

Ah, little think the gay, licentious Proud,
 Whom pleasure, pow'r, and affluence surround;
 They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
 And wanton, often *cruel* riot, waste ;—
 Ah little think they, while they dance along,
 How many pine in want and dungeon glooms,
 Shut from the common air, and common use
 Of their own limbs ! How many drink the cup
 Of baleful Grief, and eat the bitter bread
 Of Misery !—For sure th' awaking Thought
 The conscious Heart of Charity would warm ;
 The social Tear would rise, the social Sigh,
 The social Passions work !

THOMSON.

The Committee observe with pleasure,
 that no charitable institution hath met with
 a more universal concurrence than that in
 which they have so warmly engaged.
 The first sums that were collected amount-
 ed, as we before observed, to only *eighty-*
one pounds one shilling, which the Committee
 having expended, imagined, with no small
 anxiety, that there the affair would have
 closed : The beneficence, however, of the
 public, would not permit so hopeful an In-
 fant to be starved, at it were, in the birth.
 They voluntarily contributed an abundant
 supply

supply of nutrition; and the Committee as freely contributed not their Mites only, but gave their attendance also, with unceasing assiduity and care to an impartial distribution of the whole. The benefit they have been instrumental in diffusing, from the public benevolence, to the distressed, will appear by the *General Accompts* annexed to this Tract, to which the reader is referred;— and thence also, perhaps, he may form an idea of the pleasure which the Committee have received, in executing this labour of love for the comfort of their fellow creatures.

Several executors* and public bodies intrusted with sums of money to be appropriated for the discharge of debtors, have annually paid them into the Society's Fund: observing that thus they can discharge as many Prisoners for *one hundred Pounds* as any private person can do for double the sum. At first, the Society paid from four

B 4

to

* For the Form of *Bequests*, see Page 76.

to six pounds for the discharge of each debtor; but now, at an average, they only pay about two pounds five shillings.

The benefactions annually received are nearly two thousand pounds, with which the Society discharge about nine hundred debtors. The Committee observe, with concern, that for some years past the distresses of the poor have increased, perhaps in proportion to the increased prices of provisions, and the decrease of trade and manufactures; which, in a few years, may operate to the destruction of the yeomanry, or the middle class of the people:—The consequence will necessarily be, filling the army with soldiers, or the kingdom with a banditti.

The Committee exult in observing, that no objections, worthy the least notice, have been urged against *this* plan: indeed, it speaks to the heart;—for at the same time that it addresses every man's sensibility, it informs and convinces his reason. Humanity and Justice equally plead for its continuance and perpetuity; insomuch, that
similar

similar institutions are already established in some other parts of the kingdom; where also is viewed with horror the mode whereby our present laws of arrest, through a strange misapplication of punishment, are equally made subservient to oppress the innocent, and to protect or release the fraudulent and designing Debtor.

If any one *can* commit an action to deserve perpetual imprisonment, it is the *collusive* debtor. Yet, strange as it may appear, that very knavery and duplicity, which ought to incur the severest censure of our laws, enables him to evade its effects; so that he, who deserves their punishment in the greatest extent, in reality, the least sustains it. To a man of this disposition Imprisonment becomes the ultimate of his intentions. His machinations and plots to accomplish this seeming destruction, have perhaps been agitated many months previous to his apparent misfortune; and, with only the bare externals of insolvency, he suffers an attachment

upon his person, with a purse as flowing as his spirits. *Want*, the companion of the wretched, cannot assail him: Plenty decks his table, and convivial mirth attends it! The idea, that imprisonment can be a punishment to a man under these circumstances, must instantly vanish: he prepares for his catastrophe with the vizard of distress, and by that craft sets every danger at defiance; his property is conveyed by previous assignments, apparent gifts, spurious loans; and with the semblance of poverty, he possesses a genial fortune, fabricated on the ruin of the credulous, honest, and unsuspecting deaker. Such is the *collusive debtor*; whose punishment may be said to produce an effect retrograde to its very intent, by even benefiting those whom it was intended to chastise and correct.—To the *collusive Debtor* therefore Imprisonment can be no punishment,—for he feels it not as such.

The *Debtor* from *misfortune*, is a character of a different tint; the very outlines
of

whose misery it is difficult to imagine; but whose real sufferings it is impossible to describe! Eager in the pursuit of honest and fair profit, and solicitous for the good opinion of the world, he labours through life with the greatest industry; his wife, his children, and his reputation flourish around him, and bask in the sunshine of his prosperity: When, amidst this apparent security, perhaps the villainy or prejudice of his neighbours may blast his reputation; a loss may be sustained by fire; his credit may have been given too largely; his engagements may have been too extensive, or his losses sudden and considerable. From all, or any of these motives, his payments may not have been so regular and certain as usual; the consequence may be an arrest; and the unhappy man (who often suffers more from the ignominy and subversion of his fortune, than his creditor can do from the loss of his money) is in a moment dragged from a weeping wife and family, from his friends, and from his

dwelling; unable to satisfy his creditors; his property confiscated; his wife, and his children, from affluence and comfort, turned out upon the world in a state of poverty and misery.

It is in vain for a man in circumstances like these to represent the honesty of his intentions. His ability to pay twenty shillings in the pound is fled, and with it every social virtue; Such, at least, is the too general opinion of the *successful* part of mankind. Misfortune creates the metamorphosis, and the transition is instantaneous. He, who before had honor and punctuality, whose reputation was unblemished, whose industry was commended, and whose religion and morals were quoted as examples to his neighbours, in a moment becomes divested of all. His honor endures the appellation of pride; his reputation is thought duplicity; his industry is interpreted cunning; and his religion misconstrued hypocrisy: Himself and family are ruined, his credit is lost, his virtue contaminated;

taminated; every comfort of life denied; and, to compleat the catastrophe, the unhappy man, animated with principles of rectitude and equity, but retarded by inability in the display of them, is dragged, *before a trial*, to feel the rigors of *imprisonment*.

Recovery of the Debt, the general object of the plaintiff's pursuit, is very often defeated, in spite of his attempt to accomplish it, by *Confinement*. Various are the reasons which may be produced in proof of the assertion, but the following perhaps are the most obvious to consideration. When one person arrests another, he is supposed to do it with an intent of obtaining his debt; the money therefore of course is expected, or at least a temporary and additional security, by bail: On the failure of these, imprisonment generally follows; and if the first offers of a compromise are refused, the debtor has never an opportunity given him to repeat them; because, from confinement, a decrease of property becomes

becomes inevitable. The expences arising to a debtor on his way to, and when under confinement, are very great: The inconsiderate plaintiff seldom gives himself time to reflect, that it is the property of himself, and others, which by these means, is hourly diminishing; but, already, precipitated in the stream, he plunges on, no less to the destruction of the debtor, than to the certain loss of his own legal claims; seldom cooling to judge of the consequences, until his attention is awakened by a long bill from his attorney for the payment of incidental charges. In the mean time the defendant, finding the plaintiff inexorable, speedily converts every part of *his* acquired substance into money, to support him while in confinement; and thereby consumes that property, which, if timely accepted, might have afforded a decent dividend, and have effected his Release from Gaol. Thus both deceive themselves in their different pursuits; and hence it is obvious, that a prison, so far from leading
to

to Recovery of the Debt, becomes the whirlpool, as it were, of the debtor's remaining property, which, the lighter it grows, is presently ingulphed, and lost for ever in the *vortex* of Dissipation.

It may be observed, that, "should any of the debtor's effects appear after he is imprisoned, and rendered in execution, the plaintiff can certainly avail himself by a Writ of *fieri facias*." This is admitted; but it may be necessary also to know, that such Writ cannot be issued, until a discharge of the imprisoned *person* be first obtained.

Thus we see that confining the body to obtain recovery of the debt, becomes perfectly nugatory, and in the nature and reason of things absurd; because, no *property* is attainable while the *body* is confined; and consequently, confinement operates against the recovery. If *property*, therefore, be the pursuit of the plaintiff, should it not be expected he would originally proceed against *that*, without attaching the body?

It

It is true, if there are not sufficient effects to discharge the demand of the plaintiff, the body becomes answerable for the deficiency. But, as that body is supposed to be there in actual insolvency, and the process against a mere *corpus mortuum*, it can only serve to gratify the wantonness, or satiate the malice of the plaintiff.

And yet so truly savage a disposition is but too obvious in this, as in many other instances relating to debt; but in none more flagrantly so, than in the arresting of a body dead in law, from absolute insolvency.

The *Recovery of Debt* is frequently defeated by the Creditor's not perfectly understanding the consequences of an arrest. He generally imagines that the expences finish with the writ, and his attorney, for the most part, is unwilling to intimidate him with an account of *Declarations, Notices, Issues, Judgment and Execution, &c.* which must all have a regular proceeding;

And, like a wounded Snake, drag their slow length along.

On

On the least lapse or default, the debtor becomes dischargeable by *Superfedeas*, and the costs fall on the plaintiff, which are always considerable, and sometimes even double or treble the original debt. Numbers are *thus* discharged out of imprisonment every week from the Marshalsea, and from other prisons every term; for the inability of proceeding, or dread of further expence, in the plaintiff, often determines him to lose the debt, rather than add to it by proceeding to an execution.

The recovery of debt may also, at any time, be rendered void (should the debtor be of a dishonest principle, and possessed of a moderate portion of money) by *bailing out the action* before he is in execution. This is frequently done, and in consequence thereof the debtor's person becomes immediately at liberty; and may find a secure asylum beyond the seas, till it is convenient and safe to return. It is true, the plaintiff, in this instance, has recourse to the bail; but it is seldom attended with
success,

success, as every term in Westminster-hall evinces; for the persons who engage in these precarious securities, sensible of their risque, are therefore prepared against every attack; and so perfectly acquainted with every subterfuge of chicanery, as generally to tire out the most expert and determined Practitioner.

From the instances beforementioned, the *recovery of the debt* must appear very precarious, and tho' it be the primary stimulus of the plaintiff's pursuit, is rarely, if ever, accomplished. Imprisonment for debt, therefore, on its present foundation, is irrational and inconsistent; the very intent, or effect of it being perfectly destroyed in the attempt: It is wantoning with the distresses of men, to no other gratification than that of revenge; it is proceeding against the unfortunate with a severity, which the barbarity of savages would shrink at, and with a cruelty which humanity and civil policy must blush to acknowledge: It is worse than *Domitian* catching flies.

We

We might further observe, that, the *execution* or *remission* of punishment is greatly in the creditor's power : Thus he becomes a monstrous species of despotic monarch, from whose determination there is no *appeal*, and whose arbitrary career nothing can restrain, but the unanimous concurrence of the whole kingdom.

There is, perhaps, no nation in the universe (at least we hope so, for the honour of its legislators) that permits such an authority to be exercised by one subject over the liberty and property of another. It may indeed be objected, that bail will prevent an immediate exertion of the power alluded to ; but, strange as the fact may appear, it *is* a fact, that many persons, in apparently flourishing circumstances, cannot procure bail ; and then, upon the mere oath of a plaintiff, the debtor is committed close prisoner to a jail. Should this happen at the end of that (*Trinity*) term, which is previous to what the lawyers call the *long vacation*, he may
then

then remain in confinement six or eight months, without a possibility of enlargement, or of determining in any manner the pretensions of the plaintiff; and at the expiration of this period, should they be found *specious*, the prisoner has no other redress than what is to be procured by a long and expensive law-suit, which very possibly his imprisonment has rendered him incapable of pursuing,

But if the custom of *arrest* cannot be abolished, nor imprisonment for debt removed, they may both of them, at least, with great propriety, be laid under such regulations, so reconcileable to prudence, and adequate to justice, as that, while the confinement of the debtor is made easy and consistent, the claim of the creditor may be rendered more secure.

If *all* charges and expences whatsoever attending an *unjust* arrest, were to fall on the plaintiff,—who should be compelled in a summary way to reimburse the debtor, without the formality of a tedious law-suit,—
it

it might prevent a number of villainous and vexatious writs; nor would any man be obliged to lie in prison, for months together, *only for his fees*, when he becomes dischargeable by *superfedeas* on the discontinuance of an action. A debtor may frequently, and from various causes, be relieved from the claim upon him, and yet not have it in his power to pay costs or fees*; whereas, if they fell on the plaintiff, the debtor would be in consequence intitled to an immediate discharge, so soon as the action became superfedable.

A man may be arrested from mere malice or caprice, without being applied to for the debt, and often without any account rendered of the claim; because the plaintiff, in the present instance, is sure not to suffer for his wantonness, unless the suit be carried to an issue, or trial, which may
not

* It is a rule with the society never to pay the attorney's costs of suit, unless peculiar circumstances render it reasonable; which, however, do not often occur.

not often be the case: The costs consequently fall upon the debtor, and according to the present fashionable mode of caption, by what the lawyers term a *special original*, they are often found to exceed the *debt*! On the contrary, were the plaintiff liable to the incurred expence, it would, in a great measure, if not totally, put a period to such abuses, as he would never proceed to an arrest, without a positive probability of recovering the debt.

The practice of searching the Sheriff's Office for a *Si sit*, as it is called, should be abolished.* A man may be arrested in
either

* This Imposition takes place, when a Sheriff's Officer, of his *own Will*, would carry an arrested Debtor to one Compter, and the Prisoner insists upon being taken to another. In this Case, before the Debtor can be discharged, the Attorney for the Plaintiff takes the advantage of *raising a Fee*; under the Pretext of an Enquiry, whether any Detainer be lodged against him for other Claims: So that although he may have discharged the Debt for which he was confined, together with the Costs and Fees, he must submit to, and *pay* for the Attorney's going to *seek out* another Cause for *keeping him in Gaol*.

either of the four counties, and although the money be paid in discharge of the debt, and with every incidental expence, yet shall he be held in custody, under pretence that the office must be searched before he can be discharged, to know *Si sit*, &c. that is, “ if there *be* any other writ against him,” from a received opinion that the Sheriff is answerable for every writ that is against the debtor : This is notoriously trifling with the misfortunes of mankind, to augment the fees of office; for, if custom, as well as the law, be founded on reason, it must declare, that the *Sheriff* is sufficiently exonerated by making a return
to

Gaol. Our Society have done their utmost to rectify this abuse, by frequently complaining of its injuriousness, but hitherto without effect, No other Authority is alleged for the continuance of so grinding an oppression, than a Book of Rules, fabricated by the very Attornies themselves who require the Fee; and whose principal plea for the exorbitant demand is, “ *That they buy their places, and must make the most of them.*” To the honour of two or three Attornies, it must however be mentioned, that, ashamed of the practice, they have given up the claim.

to the real caption, without being expected to answer for those other claims with which *he* is not actually charged. So flagrant an imposition, and abuse of office, has long escaped the regulation which it demands. It may not, perhaps, be improper to observe, that in France, “no second charge can be lodged against the body till it is set free from the first.”

It is submitted to serious consideration, whether an arrest should ever be served on a man in his own dwelling. But in all events, the debtor arrested, when in confinement, should be regularly proceeded against, without any delay, until he is in execution; or, in default of such proceeding, he should be intitled to sue out his *superfedeas*, without waiting *three* terms, as is the present practice of the courts.

An attorney will object to this, and say, “How can the debtor be proceeded against during a vacation, when the courts are shut?” And indeed here lies a great part of the evil, for which perhaps the wisdom
of

of the legislature may adopt a remedy, by means of a justice of the peace, or a bench of justices in rotation. The Delay of justice is very injurious to a commercial people, and inconsistent with the idea of good government: Yet, how common is it for the plaintiffs against persons committed to the City compters, to deliver *declarations*, and then proceed no farther, until the debtor, at his own expence, obtains a rule of court for proceeding to trial? This expence, though small, some debtors have not been able to raise money to defray in the course of several months; nay, sometimes, they have been obliged to sell or pawn their cloaths or bedding for that purpose;—and then, after a long confinement, the averred debts, on a trial, have been found surreptitious: In which case, although the debtor may gain his cause in a court of justice, yet must he be content to sit down with the loss of his time, his goods, his reputation, and his business;—unable to prosecute the

C

villain

villain that ruined him, as having no money either for *law* or for *bread*!

The following hints, it is sincerely hoped, may contribute to correct the mal-practice of Imprisonment for *Small Debts*.

1. A total abolition of Gaolers fees appears to be the ground-work of such a reformation: No Gaoler, or his dependants, should be suffered to take any fee whatever: *—Instead of which, salaries adequate to their trouble, should be paid to them either by the Quarter Sessions, or other Community under whom they act.

2. No Gaoler, or Attorney at the Compters, should be allowed to purchase his employment, on any consideration whatever;
for

* This Reformation is in part begun by the Act of 1785. for suppressing the Fees charged upon Court of Conscience Debtors.—The reader may receive further important information on this Head from the perusal of Mr. Howard's Tract on the State of the Gaols in Great Britain; a work compiled from the most elaborate inspection, and conducted with a philanthropy that does honor both to the Writer, and to the cause of humanity, in an age of luxury and dissipation.

for whilst that is permitted, the poor will be always harassed by their impositions, for the reason mentioned in note, page 46, 47.

3. When the debtor is in execution, his effects should be surrendered upon oath, and divided amongst his creditors: in consequence of which surrender, the body should be discharged, and wholly set free from all future demands, in the same manner as a certificated bankrupt.

4. If four-fifths of the creditors in number and in value, shall at any time, while the debtor is at large, demand an inspection of his affairs, such demand should be deemed as an act of the whole body, and the debtor be obliged to submit to such inspection; in order that the creditors may have it in their power to conclude upon such terms as shall seem to them most eligible, and which should be binding also upon all the other creditors.

5. No sale, assignment, or conveyance of any kind, made by the debtor after a writ has been served twenty-four hours upon him,

him, should be effectual; but all his effects should be then considered as the property of his creditors.

6. As the above article makes the debtor speedily an insolvent, and his effects become the property of the creditors, one shilling at least per day should be allowed him, from the day of imprisonment to the day of his discharge; payable either out of the debtor's effects, if any, or otherwise at the expence of the plaintiff; and in default thereof, the debtor to be discharged.

In the province of Jamaica, a land of abject slavery, no Freeholder can have a personal attachment served upon him, nor is any *capias* permitted to issue against him; but the proceeding must always be against his *property*, which *alone* becomes liable. In Holland, and in France, the debtor is no longer held in custody, than till he can make a surrender of his effects, which is considered as an exoneration, and the body of course is free. Scotland, in the year 1754, to the honour of its administration,

nistraton, rejected the imprisonment of the body as a spurious production, unknown to the mother law: Nor, indeed, is any thing more inconsistent with the rights of mankind; so that if a custom of this sort, were even authorized by any laws, it ought to be struck out of the general code, as a remnant of barbarism, already exploded by all the wisest commercial states in the world.

The instrument called a DECLARATION, was intended merely to set forth the *cause* of the *action*, and the defendant's refusal to make satisfaction to the Plaintiff; and therein should always be inserted the names of two persons, as *Pledges* to the defendant for carrying on the prosecution to a trial:— But how are the laws of the land perverted, and that by the very practitioners of the law!

According to common practice, the declaration need not be delivered to the debtor till after the return of the writ, which may be several weeks, more or less, according to the distance of time from the ar-

rest to the return of the writ, which is governed by the term ;* so that the Debtor is punished by imprisonment, at the *will* of a fellow subject, long *before* he is or can be found guilty.—The declaration, which might be comprised in a few lines, is stretched and tortured by a *farrago*, not of language, but of Babelisms,—an unintelligible jargon of words, without ideas, that might disgrace an Hottentot; and which, if printed in this book, would croud as many pages. Add to this, that notwithstanding the law has wisely provided, that two persons, on behalf of the plaintiffs, shall be *pledges* to prosecute to a trial, yet the names of the pledges inserted in the declarations are fictitious; JOHN DOE and RICHARD ROE, who never existed, and therefore cannot be punished for being *pledges* to prosecute a false claim ;
because

* See page 26.

because they are not to be found in this world or the other.

Here then undoubtedly there appears an evil worthy the correction of the Judges;—A process at law, whereby an innocent man is punished without conviction;—that process carried on by a chain of wretched Fictions; and the Fabricators of those Fictions protected from prosecution, either by a corrupt evasion of the laws, or by the amazing expence which must attend a prosecution against an unjust plaintiff, or his associates.

Laws should be founded in EQUITY; and the execution of this conducted by TRUTH; or else the former will be abhorred, and the latter contemned, so long as the subjects of their oppression have understanding to distinguish between right and wrong.

Another injury arising from long imprisonment, is, that the debtor's friends, tired with repeated applications, desert him; his once reputable connections, from tedi-

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Another injury arising from long imprisonment, is, that the debtor's friends, tired with repeated applications, desert him; his once reputable connections, from tedious

ous captivity, are lost; and a mind unsupported by philosophy and religion is often vitiated by other connections near at hand; insomuch, that when the prison doors are thrown open for his enlargement, he finds himself in a manner alone and deserted. Should his disposition lead him to labour, to whom shall he apply for employment? Friendless, forlorn, and unrecommended, the thriving world disclaim him; his necessities urge, and famine assails him. To relieve the calls of nature, he has at last recourse to illicit practices; and thus, perhaps with keen reluctance, and anticipated remorse, he becomes "a companion of thieves," and midnight depredators. Hence is augmented the Recorder's list; and the Scaffolds of Execution groan with the accumulated weight of these wretched malefactors,—doubly wretched from their sorrows, and their crimes!

Hence our assizes are replete with felons; and our counties with the Gibbets of Ignominy!

In

In an early part of this little treatise, it was observed*, that the present mode of personal attachment for small Debts, is not only *oppressive* on the *lower classes* of the people, but *injurious to the community*; and the reason is, because the practice operates most rigorously against those who are the nerves, the sinews, and strength of that community; whilst others, who are eventually cloathed and fed by them, and move in a superior class of Society, may find a ready and ample relief, under insolvent circumstances, from the mild laws of bankruptcy. This superior class, it is granted, are useful in their rank of Society; but how often are they found as mere drones in the hive of commerce and industry! while the labouring bee, who painfully fabricates the honey, is left the most exposed to destruction, by an abuse of those laws that should protect him in every emergency.

* Page 10 and 11.

The present King of Sweden, in the month of October, 1773, issued a proclamation, that “ For the future no person should be detained in custody, who gave up his *All* to satisfy his *just debts*; and schedules of his assets, stock in trade, rent-rolls of estate, and securities for money, were to be lodged with the committee of the corporation in each borough; whose syndic, or town-clerk, is bound to examine debtors on oath, in presence of a notary, who must attest their discoveries, taken in writing, and signed by themselves; after which the debtor is to be discharged. Those who shall refuse to submit to such examinations, or endeavour to escape in a clandestine manner, are to be sent to the gallies for life; and in case of their rendering false accounts, are to suffer death as felons.”

This edict is a proof of the humanity of the Swedish Monarch, and affords a
plain

plain indication, that his subjects are proceeding to the total extirpation of a barbarous custom. Let not our kingdom then be the last to extirpate a procedure so destructive and oppressive to the subject; so contrary to the rights of nature, and so opposite to the law and constitution of England, whose founders, the ENGLISH SAXONS, knew not the practice:—In truth, it is an exotic, a Norman curse, which none can justify or approve, upon any principle of humanity or common sense.

Debtors, frequently, from fear of the injuries to which they are exposed by arrests, resolve to live in prison, and there either to spend those effects which might have been divided among mild creditors, or else to portion out their fortunes amongst their families, in defiance of their creditors and the law.—And strange as such steps may seem, the debtor is induced to take them merely from this reasoning,—“that while the

body is held in prison, it is an optional satisfaction for the debt, determined and elected by his creditor."

The dread of imprisonment gives birth to many crimes; it is the nurse of knavery and evasion; whereas, if the man in fluctuating circumstances, were convinced that the greatest evil which could happen to him, under a reverse of fortune, would be to give up ALL his property for the payment of his debts, he would then, with a calm and honest firmness, face his creditors; happy in the last resource of making a true disclosure and an honest surrender for their just benefit.

The utility of the charity in behalf of small debtors, will appear from the consideration, that every poor man's labour may be estimated, at an average, to be worth two shillings and six-pence per day, or three pounds five shillings per month. Now the Society having set at liberty about eleven thousand of such persons, the benefit immediately derived
to

to the community, will amount to above seventy-one thousand pounds, supposing each of those persons to have obtained his liberty only two months sooner than he would have obtained it without the assistance of the Society. But, if to this benefit gained by the community, we add that of preventing such numbers of prisoners and their families from becoming burthenome to their several parishes, who can ascertain the amazing harvest of advantage resulting from the institution? It is surely a very striking consideration, at once to the man and the citizen, to the tradesman and the merchant; to the patriot senator, and the sincere Christian!

And as such, therefore, it is, that the Society ventures again to propose it:—A Society, which, for more than seventeen years since its very humble commencement, has been patronized in the most respectable manner, and has derived its highest honour, satisfaction and efficacy
from

from the abundant benevolence of the public. Its books of accounts, receipts, disbursements, and other proceedings, are always open for general inspection; and from those of the nobility and gentry who have condescended to take the trouble of examining them, they have obtained the fullest approbation, testified by their bounty. In short, the friends of genuine humanity have considered the institution as peculiarly laudable;—as being founded upon the noblest EXAMPLE which can animate the Christian heart, and conducted by the disinterested principles of philanthropy.

The number of debtors discharged and relieved within twelve months, from Michaelmas, 1787, to Michaelmas, 1788, amounted to 766, who had 515 wives, and 1455 children; the expence attending their deliverance was 2210l. 2s.—The average, therefore, paid for each debtor is about 2l. 17s. 8½d. including every incidental expence of rent, printing,

ing, advertisements, books, &c. requisite for conducting the business. Many of the prisoners were found in various cities and counties of England, as well as in the gaols of the metropolis; for no respect or preference is paid to their locality; the calls of distress are alike heard and attended to, from whatever quarter they may arise. Among the creditors of those prisoners so discharged, several, to a large amount, have received a composition of not less than *Ten Pounds*: The magnitude of the debt, in cases of peculiar emergency, being no object with the Society, provided it can be compromised, and brought within *that* sum, which is the utmost scope and avowed intention of their original design.

Many of the above debtors, confined for greater sums, were found to have been imprisoned even for several years, hopeless of any relief from a charity so humble in its views, and languishing in circumstances the most pitiably indigent.

How

64 *Account of the Society for Relief*

How great then must be the joy of their restoration to wives and families, that once had known far better days! They are now become again useful Members of Society, happy in their various occupations; and, it is to be hoped, very deserving of the blessings thus enjoyed. For it is but just to add, that the most assiduous care is taken by the Committee, to relieve none but those whose characters justly warrant attention, and whose miseries call loudly for the relief and comfort afforded them.

Upon these plain grounds, therefore, it is submitted to the consideration of judicious and feeling minds, whether an undertaking thus arduous in itself, and kind to the community at large, doth not merit the warm encouragement of a nation like ours;—the most eminently and nobly distinguished for its policy and commerce, its liberality, and genuine love of benevolence.

The

The applications made to the Society, notwithstanding all its past exertions, increase; and especially from the *county gaols*, which at length seem to be well-informed of the nature of the plan, but where the unfortunate debtor appears in a manner to have been hitherto forgotten by every friend.—Calls like these surely demand a very serious and unremitted attention; nor is it doubted that they will be kindly heard. So far then as the Governors shall be enabled by the public bounty, “to open the prison doors,” and to wipe away the tears of misery and helpless innocence, in such proportion, and with an alacrity worthy of the claim, will this Charity be impartially extended throughout the kingdom of Great-Britain.

✂ To render this little volume more complete, and, in some degree, entertaining as well as improving to the reader, we have not only inserted the RULES and ORDERS of the Society, our FORMS of general

66 *Account of the Society for Relief, &c.*

general business, the *Exhortation* to persons delivered from prison, their *Thanksgiving Prayer*, a *List of Benefactors* and *Honorary Governors*, and a General Statement of Accounts to March, 1789; but have also added two or three pieces of *Poetry*, which may not be unacceptable. The first Ode in particular, which has been set to music, and is occasionally performed in places of divine service for the benefit of the Charity, may therefore be welcome to such as shall in future attend to hear it.

RULES

RULES AND ORDERS

OF THE

S O C I E T Y

FOR THE

DISCHARGE AND RELIEF

OF

PERSONS IMPRISONED FOR SMALL DEBTS,

AS SETTLED AND CONFIRMED

ON THE FIFTH OF MAY, 1772.

RULES AND ORDERS.

I. NAME of the CHARITY.

THAT this institution be called,
“*The SOCIETY for the Dis-
CHARGE and RELIEF of Persons imprisoned
for SMALL DEBTS.*”

II. OFFICERS.

That this Charity do consist of a Presi-
dent, four Vice-Presidents, a Trea-
surer, Secretary and Committee.

III. COMMITTEE.

1. That the Committee be open to, and consist of all such persons as are qualified to be Governors.
2. That of the Committee five members constitute a quorum.

IV. MEETINGS.

1. That there be an ANNUAL MEETING,
on or about the 5th of May.
2. That

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2. That there be four quarterly general meetings in every year.
3. And also a meeting of the Committee on every * Wednesday evening during the winter months, or otherwise in the summer months, as to the Committee may seem necessary and proper.
4. Of all which several meetings due notice shall be given by advertisement in the public newspapers.
5. That the place for holding all such meetings be at the *Thatched-House Tavern*, in St. James's-street, or otherwise,† as shall be thought most convenient.
6. And that the weekly, or other meetings of the Committee on Wednesday

* Weekly meetings were necessary in the *infancy* of this charity; but such forms have been adopted, from the experience of the Committee, that, in its *maturity*, their meeting once a month is found to be fully sufficient.

† The Society, soon after their establishment, took an office, at No. 7, *Craven-street, Strand*, where the business of the charity is now transacted.

evenings,

evenings, begin constantly at five o'clock, and end at eight; when the accounts are to be adjusted, and the books closed.

V. *Of the* TREASURER.

1. That he receive all benefactions, keep an account of all receipts and payments, and adjust the same at the four general quarterly courts, or oftener, if required by the rest of the governors.
2. He is to advance no monies on account of the Charity, unless authorised thereto by writing, under the hand of three of the Committee, at the time of their Wednesday evening meetings.

VI. *Of the* SECRETARY.

He is to be present at all meetings of the Governors, to take minutes; receive and prepare all petitions; make the necessary enquiries, and report to the Committee concerning them;

them; to draw up the accounts; and carry on the correspondence and business of the Charity, under the direction of the Committee.

VII. *Of GOVERNORS in general, and their Qualification.*

1. That this Charity be supported by annual subscriptions, or other voluntary benefactions:
2. That all annual subscribers of or above the sum of two guineas, are, and shall be esteemed Governors, and of the Committee.
3. That if any annual subscriber shall be more than two years in arrear, his power as a Governor shall cease, until such arrears are paid.
4. That all benefactors of, or above the sum of twenty guineas, now are, and shall be esteemed perpetual Governors.

5. That the nomination of officers be in the Governors, and determined by a majority.

VIII. *Of the OBJECTS to be relieved.*

1. They shall be persons *actually* imprisoned, whose respective debts, or the composition for whose debts, shall not exceed the sum of TEN POUNDS.
2. That women shall be equally intitled to the benefit of this charity as men.
3. That such debtors shall have the preference as are most aged or infirm; have the largest families unprovided for; are the most likely to be useful to the community, and appear to have lost their liberty by unavoidable misfortunes; at least, not by fraud, vice, or extravagance.
4. That as to such imprisoned debtors as have helpless families, who suffer by the faults of their principal, and are undeservedly reduced to poverty, the

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Committee shall be at liberty to give the family some assistance, in proportion to their distresses, and agreeable to the intention of the charity.

5. That no person be delivered a *second* time, unless it shall appear to the Committee that their second misfortune cannot be imputed to their own fault.
6. That an account be annually published of the number of persons discharged and relieved, but their names not mentioned; together with an account of the sums paid for them, and of the prisons from whence they were respectively discharged.
7. That at the time of discharge, a short printed EXHORTATION be given to every person released.

IX. *Of PETITIONS and PETITIONERS.*

That at their respective meetings, the Committee refer all the petitions then received to the Secretary, for his
3 exami-

of Persons confined for Small Debts. 75

examination and enquiry, during the current month. That the report he shall make on them be considered at the next Committee meeting; and that they be proceeded on accordingly, in preference to any other applications.

F O R M S

O F

APPLICATION *to this* SOCIETY
for RELIEF.

THE Debtor receives *gratis* from the
Gaoler a printed Petition, of which
the following is a copy :

*To the Right Honourable the PRESIDENT, the
VICE-PRESIDENTS, and other Members of
the Society for Discharge and Relief of Per-
sons imprisoned for Small Debts.*

The humble Petition of
late of Street, in the
Parish of
in the County of

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioner—*hath not received
any relief from your Society heretofore : That he
is*

of Persons confined for Small Debts. 77

is in the
Age: by profession a
and hath *

Year of his

* *Insert the
Wife and
Number of
Children, if
any, under
14 Years of
Age.*

THAT he was committed to this Prison of

Day of
confined on the †
said Prison, for a Debt of £. s. d.
sworn to by ‡

and is now
side of the † *Insert the
Side of the
Prison where
the Debtor is
confined.*

of

Street, in the Parish of *‡ Insert the
Plaintiff's
Name, Pro-
fession, and
Abode.*

for ||

and he hath also proceeded by his Attorney,
Mr. against your Petitioner, *|| Insert what
KIND of Va-
lue the Pri-
soner had of
his Plaintiff
for the Debt.*

by a Writ or Process of the Court of §

§ *Here men-
tion the Court
whence the
Writ issued;
also the
Dates of the
Declaration,
Trial, or*

THAT it may require £. s. d.
to pay for

and also to
discharge the Prison-Fees, to obtain your Pe-
titioner's *d. Judgment, as
the Case may
be; and if
superficial,*

the Time
WHEN, and
for what
 REASON. tititioner's Liberty; who having no Effects or
 Power to discharge the same, most humbly
 prays to partake of your Bounty, in such way
 as to you may seem meet; and refers to *

• *Insert the*
Names, Pro-
fessions, and
Places of
Abode of two
Housekeepers
who are ac-
quainted
with the
Prisoner's
Case.

of
 in the Parish of
 and
 of
 Street, in the Parish of

for a Character of his *Sobriety, Integrity, and*
Industry.

DIRECTIONS to the PRISONERS.


N. B. 1. Debtors who desire to par-
 take of this Charity, must apply by
printed PETITION ONLY; a Form of which,
 as above, may be had of the respective
 Keepers, GRATIS.

2. No Petition will be attended to,
 unless filled up fully and exactly as di-
 rected in the Margin; those Directions
 being so plain, that no difficulty can
 arise.

arise. It is therefore desired that every Petitioner will fill up his or her own Petition.

3. Those who apply for their Liberty by Superfedeas, must petition so soon as they become superfedable; and also send a Copy of their Cause or Causes, with the Keeper's Certificate, written on the Back of the Petition, or inclosed in it.

4. All LETTERS, PETITIONS, &c. are to be forwarded to the Letter-Box, No. 7, in Craven-Street, Strand, *Post-paid*.

 *Any Attempt to impose on the Society in any Particular, will prevent the Petitioner's being relieved.*

Upon the proposed Composition's being accepted by the Plaintiff, the Gaol Fees are immediately paid, and the Debtor set at Liberty, with some small Donation; according to the Number and Distress of Family, &c.

And in order to prevent imposition by SWINDLERS, the Society have found it sometimes necessary to apply to the

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Plaintiff for his Testimony concerning the Debtor, by the following Letter.

SOCIETY for the Discharge and Relief
of Persons imprisoned for SMALL
DEBTS.

CRAVEN-STREET, STRAND.

The of 178

*a Prisoner at your suit in the
Gaol of for a Debt of £. s. d.
hath petitioned this Society for their charitable
assistance; who, being desirous of distributing
the benevolence of the Public to every worthy
object, (and to such only) request to be in-
formed by you of the manner in which the Debt
was contracted: Whether in the common and
ordinary course of Business, or by specious Pre-
tences; and of such other circumstances as may
enable the Society to judge of the Petitioner's
true character, and of his qualification to par-
take of the public bounty from this Charity.*

Be pleased to write your Answer on the back of this
Paper—and direct it

*To be put into the Letter-Box, No. 7, Craven-
Street, Strand.*

FORM

FORM of BEQUESTS of LEGACIES.*

I A. B. do give and bequeath unto
*The TREASURER of the SOCIETY
for the DISCHARGE and RELIEF of Persons
imprisoned for Small Debts, known by the
Name of the Thatched House Society, in Cra-*
ven-Street, Strand, the Sum of

*to be paid out of my personal Estate, and to
be*

* We have been informed of several legacies for the relief of prisoners, which are not applied to the purposes for which they were bequeathed. It would be a matter worthy of enquiry, what other legacies are yet undiscovered, besides the following, which have long lain dormant.

1st. The legacy of Mr. Henry Brown, late linen-draper in the Borough of Southwark, of 50*l. per ann.* as may appear by the donor's will in Doctors Commons.

2. The legacy of Mr. James Dodd, of 30*l. per ann.* to be paid out of a farm at Hartly-row, near Hertford-Bridge, in the county of Southampton; some years past in the occupation of Mr. Cile, who lived on the said farm.

3. The legacy of Arthur Child, of the county of Hertford, Esq. of 24*l. per ann.* to be paid out of 220*l.*

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be by him applied, (with the Consent of the Governors thereof) for the sole Uses and Purposes of that benevolent Institution.

N. B. Any *Legacy* arising from *Lands*, is void by the Statute of Mortmain.

per ann. lying in the parish of Stevenage, in the said county. This legacy was left in the year 1669.

4. The legacy of Mr. Samuel West, citizen of London, of 16*l.* *per ann.* to be paid out of a ground-rent arising from several houses in Coleman-street, London.

5. The legacy of Mr. John Hill, of Charlton, in the county of Kent, of 12*l.* *per ann.* to be paid out of an estate at Charlton aforesaid; some years past in the occupation of Sir William Longham. This legacy was left in the year 1654.

6. The legacy of the family of the Lushingtons, of 11*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* *per ann.* as appears by the donor's will in Doctors Commons.

7. The legacy of Robert Henley, Esq. of 10*l.* *per ann.* payable by the possessors of an estate lying near the church at Harrow on the Hill, in the county of Hertford; which estate is now, or was lately in the family of the Waldos.

The foregoing legacies amount to 153*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* *per ann.* and have not been paid to the poor prisoners for many years past. See a Pamphlet, intitled "The extraordinary Case of William Pearce."

THE

THE foregoing RULES and ORDERS of the Society, and FORMS for carrying the benevolent designs of the public into effectual execution, have been honoured by the general approbation and encouragement of all ranks of people among us; insomuch, that some of the public city companies, executors, and other trustees for distributing annual sums of money for the discharge of poor debtors, have made the Society their Almoners; under a full conviction "that the Society, from the experience they have acquired, can discharge as many debtors for ONE hundred pounds, as *they* themselves can discharge for TWO hundred pounds."* The Society however are at all times ready and desirous to act according to the *general* directions of such trustees; and to render to them accurate
Lists

See before, p. 31.

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Lists and Accounts of the Debtors so discharged, and of the Monies so intrusted to their distribution.

TIME, which effects the various vicissitudes of human life, has, of course, made some changes in the Society : But Humanity, Philanthropy, and Christianity, are still the same : So that, though some of the NOBLE, the GREAT, and the GOOD, have been removed, others have kindly become the friends of the distressed Debtor in their stead.

The present Officers of the Society are,

The Rt. Hon. Ld. ROMNEY, *President,*

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of

RADNOR,

The Rt. Hon. Ld. Visc.

BEAUCHAMP,

Hon. PHILIP PUSEY,

Sir CHARLES MIDDLE-
TON, Bart.

*Vice
Presidents.*

JAMES NEILD, Esq. *Treasurer.*


R. GRASSWELL, *Secretary.*

The

of Persons confined for Small Debts. 83

The Business of the Society being now conducted on so regular a Plan, that the Committee have not thought it necessary to meet oftener than once a Month, those Meetings are held at No. 7, CRAVEN STREET, STRAND, the first Wednesday of every Month, at Six o'Clock in the *Evening*; the Quarterly Court Meetings excepted, which are always held at *Noon*.

The Committee are composed of all such annual Benefactors as choose to attend: their Company therefore will at all times be esteemed a kindness to the Society; more especially, if any Gentleman should have any thing to propose, for rendering this Institution more advantageous to the Public, or essentially conducive to its prosperity.

 Persons desirous of establishing similar societies in other parts of the kingdom, may have copies of the modes of business which the Society have adopted,

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adopted, *Gratis* : and should any deficiency or defect be found therein, the Society will be very thankful for better information and advice, and happy to pursue it.

AN
EXHORTATION
TO THE
DEBTOR RELEASED,
BY THE
SOCIETY
FOR THE
DISCHARGE AND RELIEF
OF
PERSONS imprisoned for SMALL DEBTS.

EXHORTATION, &c.

MY FRIEND,

HAPPY in a deliverance from the miseries of a jail, through the *goodness of God*, and the *charity of your fellow creatures*, you cannot be insensible that it is your duty TO BE THANKFUL.

Your first, and most grateful thanks are due to God, your creator, redeemer and sanctifier, whose good providence is over all his creatures: and in full proof of it, he hath not suffered you to languish in melancholy confinement; but, regarding your distress with a fatherly eye, hath rescued you from it, through means wholly

wholly unexpected and unmerited by you.

Offer up, therefore, to this great and gracious Author of your deliverance, the earnest and unfeigned thanksgivings of your heart. Cry out with the Psalmist, "*What shall I render unto the Lord, for all the benefits that he hath done unto me? I will offer unto him the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.**"

Consider how easy to yourself is this tribute of praise and gratitude, while it is of all others the most acceptable to God, as being some proof of a sincere and honest heart. And at the same time recollect, that a neglect of it will not only shew how ungrateful you are, but may justly deprive you of future favours from God. It is therefore no less your Duty than your Interest, *to be thankful.*

Gratitude to *God* is the well-spring and fountain-head, as it were, of every other virtue. They who excel in it can never

be deficient in gratitude to their *earthly benefactors*.

It is to them, under the Divine Providence, that you owe all your present views of future happiness. They, moved by a generous commiseration of your distresses, have discharged your Debts, have opened to you the prison gates, and given you again that, which is of all things most desirable to human creatures—the enjoyment of LIBERTY ! Perfectly disinterested as their Charity is towards you, you cannot fail to hold it in the highest estimation : you cannot fail to offer up your fervent and constant prayers for the humane Imparters of it : and to shew yourself worthy of their pity and their bounty, by seriously reflecting on the proper means to improve the happiness which they have communicated.

To this end, after having offered up your earnest *Prayers* and *Thanksgivings* to God, and implored his blessing on your *Benefactors*, intreat HIM to enlighten your mind,

mind, while in serious thoughts you REFLECT (with a determined purpose to act agreeable to those reflections) on the CAUSES which deprived you of liberty, and lodged you within the mournful walls of a prison.

If those CAUSES were evil, if Vice and Folly, Extravagance and Dissipation wrought your overthrow, and involved you in those debts which the humanity of the Society has so generously discharged; remember, that the same *Causes* will always produce the same *Effects*: and that if, abusing the present providential mercy, you indulge in and pursue your former vices, distresses more fatal than before will most certainly ensue. For that humanity which before relieved, will then be averted from you, and no more open her liberal hand to relieve.*

You

* N. B. By the Rules and Orders of the Society, it is expressly enjoined, " That no Person be delivered a *second* time, unless it shall appear to the Committee that their second misfortune cannot be imputed to their own fault." Rule VIII. No. 5, p. 74.

You will return to, and perhaps perish in confinement, deservedly unpitied; the miseries of that state horridly aggravated to you by the consciousness of your past folly, ingratitude and vice. Our Saviour's counsel, therefore, to the Paralytic whom he restored to health, may with great force and propriety be applied to you; "*Behold, thou art made whole: Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*"—Behold thou art made free; delivered from Debt, from Prison, and from Sorrow;—*Sin no more*; but seriously repent and reform thy life; otherwise, the vices which wrought thy past sorrow, will plunge thee into sorrows much more fatal and severe!

But, if you are happy enough to be able to lay your hand upon your heart, and to appeal, in this solemn review of your actions, to the Searcher of all secrets, that no flagrant sins or vices of your's

* John, v. ver. 14.

have been the immediate cause of your misfortunes ; but that they have arisen from *imprudences*, perhaps, from ignorance and unskilfulness ; from a want of experience, or the common and unforeseen casualties and occurrences of Life ;—In this case, though you may have much greater cause of self-satisfaction than in the former, yet there will not be less need that you frame your future plan of conduct, as much as possible, on the principles of prudent *care* and deliberate circumspection. Especially, you must study to improve and grow wary from your past mistakes and inadvertencies ; and determine to act, under a constant sense of God's immediate presence and directing providence, with all caution, advice and consideration : Ever willing to take and to hear counsel, and to use such discretion in the management of yourself and your concerns, that, amidst any of the changes and chances of life, you may at least have the satisfaction to
look

look up to God, and appeal to Men, as having faithfully, honestly, industriously, and to the best of your abilities and understanding, done your utmost.

For this purpose you must be particularly careful of your future behaviour and conduct in life; settling it well in your mind, and endeavouring, not only to avoid all that Evil which was in any respect prejudicial, but to practise those Virtues you have neglected, especially the strictest S O B R I E T Y, without which the others will be impracticable.

We must not, however, omit to mention, and to recommend in an especial manner, the exertion and constant exercise of another Virtue, which you peculiarly owe to the public, to your benefactors, and to yourself; and that is INDUSTRY: without which, as you will shew yourself utterly unworthy the mercy you have now received, so will you entirely defeat the great end at which we aim; namely, “ The restoring *industrious*

Industrious, and consequently *useful* Members to the community." To that community you owe the utmost exertion of your industry, without which you will be a burthen to the state and to yourself. Sloth will *cloath you with rags**; INDUSTRY will bring you competence and sufficiency, if not wealth. It will procure you the favour of God and of man; and is that alone which can thoroughly rescue you from the difficulties of your past situation, and reinstate you in full happiness and peace. Indeed, it is a most pleasing reflection, that we seldom see a man truly *industrious*, and honestly busying himself in his proper occupation, but success attends him; or if not success, yet at least the esteem and assistance of his fellow-creatures. "*The hand of the diligent maketh rich*†, *but the slothful shall come under tribute*‡. *The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing: but the soul of the*

* Prov. xxiii. 21. † Ibid. x. 4. ‡ Ibid. xii. 24.

diligent shall be made fat. He that diligently seeketh good, procureth favour†; and men will praise thee when thou doest well to thyself ‡."*

We heartily wish you may verify these remarks, and, admonished by your late misfortunes, not only redeem the errors of the past, but by your honest industry for the time to come, obtain a blessing from the rich Providence of that God, who crowneth the industrious *with a good reward*, and enableth them to *rejoice in the labour of their hands*.

In this view, let us particularly impress it upon your mind, that as you owe all your hopes of increase, under God, to that Charity which hath thus given you *Liberty*, as the first of blessings; so it is your immediate Duty, and will, we trust, not only be your happiness, but your fixed Purpose, to contribute what you can with justice and propriety, towards

* Prov. xiii, 4. † Ibid. xi. 27. ‡ Psalm xlix. 18.

the assistance of the good work. Should the Providence of God succeed and prosper your well-meant endeavours in the paths of Industry and Virtue, how pleasing, how delightful must it be to your heart, to make a grateful return to your Benefactors !—whose hands will be open to receive from *you*, the more largely to pour out Liberty and comfort to your fellow-creatures.

On this noble principle, then, remember to be *merciful after thy power*, should the God of goodness give thee power to get wealth. *If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.** And indeed, if you consider, it is not only natural, but just and reasonable to expect this pleasing return, in acknowledgement for those benefits of which you have partaken; to which you owe in Gratitude and Jus-

* Tob. iv. 8. Heb. xiii. 16.

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tice so much; and from which, if liberally encouraged and promoted by feeling hearts, you should reflect, that many other worthy, but unsuccessful men in future, may, by God's blessing, reap as great comforts and advantages as you yourself have done. *Be you therefore merciful*, even as God and men have been kind and merciful to you: Merciful to all; and particularly so, to such as shall happen by any means to become your Debtors: ever remembering that strong and emphatic application of the great Creditor in the Gospel, "*Shouldest not thou also have compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee ?**"

But further remember, that all charitable Gifts, as well as all moral Actions, should have a nobler source, and aim at higher views, than this world and its transitory concerns.

As you are admonished to begin with,

* Read the whole parable, Matt. chap. xiii. ver. 23, &c.

so must you continually look up to God, not only as your great Deliverer, but as your perpetual Guardian, Benefactor and Friend; as your kind Preserver, Protector, and Father. To HIM, as the *End*, must you direct all your actions; Religion must be the grand spring and motive of all you do: For be well assured, that unless you square your *Conduct* and direct your *Life* by God's unerring laws, you will neither proceed with regularity in the *one*, nor with success and peace in the *other*.

Resolve, therefore, above all things, to form your future life upon a strictly religious plan. Make that GOSPEL—which is fraught with the noblest consolation to minds in every distress and every condition,—your study, your delight, and your practice; and intreat your great Redeemer, who came “*to preach Deliverance to the Captives*,” that he would open your eyes both to *see* and *know*, as well as to *fulfil* his blessed Precepts, which afford

at once perfect freedom to the mind, and pure felicity to the life.

We wish you most seriously to reflect, that as the same motives of mere disinterested good-will, which incited us to discharge your Debts, and to deliver you from Prison, do incite us likewise to dismiss you with this friendly Counsel ; so you cannot fail to receive and to fulfil it, if you would not draw down upon you the most odious character of Ingratitude, Ignorance, and Self-delusion. We have not, we cannot have any other end in thus advising you, than an earnest wish for your future welfare ; even *that it may be well with you, and with your Children for ever !** We would extend that wish beyond our temporal Relief,—beyond the present world. We would earnestly desire that our humble endeavours for your worldly good, may, by God's grace, be effectual to produce your spiritual, your eternal welfare.

* Deuteronomy, chap. v. ver. 29.

To this end, we have exhorted you,
To exercise a devout and amiable *thankfulness*,

1. To God, your supreme Benefactor:
2. To your *Fellow-creatures*, whom he hath happily made the instruments of his mercy towards you.

We have exhorted you——

—To serious *Consideration* on your past state and conduct—To thorough *Repentance* and entire *Reformation*, where that conduct was evil: To *Prudence* and wise *Amendment*, where it was wrong.

—To *Diligence*, *Honesty*, and *Activity* in your sphere:

—To a grateful *remembrance* of this *Charity*, if providentially successful in your future industrious efforts. And, above all,


To a strictly *Religious Life*, formed upon that divine and ever-glorious Rule of Faith and Practice, delivered by Jesus Christ in the Gospel.

And thus, my Friend, we bid you affectionately farewell; ardently intreat-

ing the God of mercy to second these our well-meant Instructions, and to carry them to your *Heart* :—A *Heart*, which surely can never forget the fatal loss of Liberty, and that melancholy Prison in which it was so *lately*, and perhaps so *long* confined. Oh ! remember, that miserable and bitter as it was, yet from thence there must have been redemption in time: Death would at last have set you free, if Benevolence had not. But recollect, there is a Prison, from which nothing can deliver, if once we are consigned over to its horrors !—A Prison “ *prepared for the Devil and his Angels,*” but reserved for those who in this life despise the mercies of their redeeming Lord, forfeit his favour, and rush into endless perdition. Let the miseries of your earthly prison be at least as emblematical instructors, to advise you of the infinitely worse miseries of that future Prison : and, having now escaped the former, never forget, that by God’s
mercy

mercy, through Christ Jesus, who came into this our prison to redeem us, you may escape the latter, if you are not wanting to yourself. If you are—if you abuse his grace, and this high instance of his providential care and mercy towards you, if you dishonour his Gospel, defy his Law, and act unworthy the name and character you bear, as a Christian and a Man;—think, how you can dwell in an everlasting Prison-house, in everlasting confinement and woe; “*where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched;*” and from whence there shall be no redemption,—no delivery,—no return!

Rescued from an earthly, may you also be rescued from an eternal Prison! May you be wise to improve every trial, and every mercy of your God! May you be so wise as seriously to consider these things! and so to live and act, as to obtain the blessings of the Almighty both here and hereafter!

 We here subjoin, and earnestly recommend to your use, THE

T H E
DEBTOR'S THANKSGIVING
For Deliverance out of Prison.

GRACIOUS and all-merciful Lord God ! who hearest the cries of the poor destitute, and despisest not the prisoners, who art rich in compassion and love to all such as call upon thee ; Accept, I beseech thee, O Father ! the adoration, thanksgiving, and praise, of a most grateful heart. I was in Prison, O God ! and thou didst come unto me, in the pity and compassion of my fellow-creatures, the works of thy hands, and the ministers of thy providential relief. Thou hast heard me, when I cried unto thee in my trouble.—Thou hast saved me from my deep distress, when I was bound in the cords of affliction. Thou hast raised me up friends to commiserate and to help me. With joy and gratitude I see that the
snare

snare is broken, and I am delivered. Thou, Lord, hast brought me out of prison; thy hand is visible and well seen in my late deliverance! and therefore my soul shall give thanks unto thy name.

May I never overlook this thy goodness, O my God! Never suffer me to forget the vows and prayers which I made to thee in my distress; but let my whole future life be one acceptable sacrifice to thee, my great Deliverer! and do thou make all my future conduct to shew forth thy praise. May my past misfortunes teach me prudence in my worldly affairs, and convince me of the necessity of care and diligence, of fidelity and honesty in all my dealings; that so I may never, by any extravagance or wilful indiscretion, bring myself or others into the same misfortune, lest a worse thing come upon me.

May my late imprisonment and extreme affliction teach me pity, and inspire my heart with tenderness towards all who

are in prison and afflicted; and particularly may thy blessings crown the endeavours, and reward the zealous labours of those, whom thou hast made the means of deliverance, and the dispensers of my present comfort.

If at any time I have abused the liberty I formerly enjoyed, pardon me, I entreat thee, Thou God of Mercy! and now, at length, enable me to be a good steward of my bodily freedom, and to improve those happy opportunities, which are again, by thy mercy, put into my hands. As thou hast enlarged my body, do thou also more than ever enlarge my spirit, in fervent prayers for thy divine grace and guidance: in constant thanksgiving for the great benefits I have so unexpectedly received. And grant that I may evermore proclaim thy unmerited goodness, not only by my lips, but in my life. That so, delivered from the oppression of man here, I may finally be delivered from the condemnation.

demnation of thy law hereafter; and for ever be redeemed at the great day of Judgment,—to the glory of thy holy Name, through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

B.

POETRY.

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P O E T R Y.

I.

T H E

DEBTOR RELIEVED:

S K E T C H O F A

S A C R E D O D E,

Set to Music by Mr. H O O K.

R E C I T A T I V E.

OH LET THE SORROWFUL SIGHING OF THE PRISONERS COME BEFORE THEE!

A I R.

SEE where he lies
Neglected and forlorn!

From his dear wife and tender infants torn,
Feeding on bitter tears and deep-drawn sighs;
The Husband, Father, and the Man.

R E C I T A T I V E.

See where he lies; dejected, pale, and wan!
Immur'd within the doleful Prison's Wall,
Depriv'd of every Good Men valuable call.

A I R.

A I R.

SUN, that from thy golden height
Scatter'ft Glory and Delight ;
Beams, that laughing Nature blefs
With univerfal chearfulness ;—

R E C I T A T I V E.

Ah, glorious Sun ! for him in vain you glow ;
Blank, blank the Prospect all :
'Tis Dreariness and Woe !

A I R.

Spirit of celestial Birth,
“ Mountain Nymph, Sweet LIBERTY !
Noblest Boon of Heaven to Earth,
Oh how good to dwell with thee ;
How delectable to rove
O'er the Upland, through the Grove,
Unrestrain'd in Bliss with thee,
“ Mountain Nymph, Sweet LIBERTY !”
Strike, strike the solemn Chord. And weep to view
A free-born MAN—a BRITON too,
Of Freedom take his deep-ton'd, sad Adieu !

A I R.

Thou, cruel CREDITOR, forbear,—
Can'st thou have more than All ?
Enough, enough :—The Man in mercy spare ;
Ah, why his Limbs-enthral ?

From

of Persons confined for Small Debts. III

From his humble Home so dear,
Oh, for Mercy, do not tear!
See his Wife in Sorrow drown'd,
View his Infants weeping round:
From Industry his Hands restrain!
Merciless!—what can'st thou gain?

RECITATIVE.

Shame, and reproach of conscience—for thy Part;
While Hunger gnaws their Soul, and Anguish rends
their Heart!

A I R.

But see—with melting Pity in her Eye,
Man's genial Friend, blest CHARITY,
Religion's eldest, loveliest Child,
Led by her Parent meek and mild,
Their Anguish views
And, as contemplating the mighty Woe,
“ Ah who,” she cries, “ can Help refuse?
Though Law it's Rigour will not bend,
Nor stern Necessity relent
In Pity to their Sufferings sent,
We will Mercy's Arm extend;
We, my Sons, will help bestow.”

RECITATIVE.

Thus as she spoke, a generous Glow
Of her own Flame she did impart
To many a noble, many a feeling Heart!
They caught the Fire, and as it spread,
The DEBTOR felt the Warmth, and rear'd his down-
cast Head,

AIR;

A I R.

Then "Welcome, thrice welcome"—I heard his full
Voice,

In Gratitude's deep Diapason rejoice :

"Oh welcome, blest Freedom, to Mortals most dear,
Lov'd Light of the Sun, balmy Sweetness of Air !

R E C I T A T I V E.

Come my Wife, my Children, join,
Raise the Song to Strains divine.

S E M I - C H O R U S.

Glorious GOD, the first to THEE,
We lift the heart, we bow the Knee,

R E C I T A T I V E.

For thou hast heard our Complaints, and SET THE PRI-
SONER FREE !

L A S T C H O R U S.

Sons of Mercy, Sons of Heaven,
Next to THEM, our Thanks be given.

Louder still exalt the Strain,
These are Patriots, these are Men !

Ministring Angels may they be,
Where all are blest—for all are FREE !"

II.

E P I L O G U E.

WRITTEN BY

R. CUMBERLAND, Esq.

And spoken by Mr. HULL and Mrs. MAT-
TOCKS, at COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE,
after the JEALOUS WIFE, performed for
the Use of the SOCIETY for the DIS-
CHARGE of PERSONS IMPRISONED FOR
SMALL DEBTS, on the 23d. Dec. 1773.

*The Curtain rises, and discovers a Prison; at some
Distance a Woman poorly habited, and in a discon-
solate Attitude. After standing for some Time motion-
less, in a Posture of fixed Attention, she speaks.*

Woman.

THOU loathsome dungeon, in whose dreary womb
The pining Debtor finds a living tomb,
Where, 'midst the clank of chains and dismal yells
Of shackled felons, my sad husband dwells;

From

114 *Account of the Society for Relief*

From his dark cell, Oh give him to my view !
Let him look forth, and take a last adieu.

*[As she advances towards the Prison, a Person in
Gentleman's Apparel accosts her.]*

Man.

Stay, child of sorrow, thou, whose piercing groans
Might move to pity e'en these senseless stones ;
Why dost thou bend thy melancholy way
To that drear dungeon ? Child of sorrow, stay.

Woman.

Why should I stay, or my sad griefs impart ?
Can there be pity in a human heart ?
Away, and let me die——

Man.

No ; if 'tis there
You seek some captive friend, renounce despair ;
For, tho' the iron hand of law has barr'd
Those furly doors which yon dread mansion guard,
Know, there are found, on whose dilated breasts
The heav'n-descended dove of pity rests ;
Souls, that delight with soft'ring smiles to cheer
The broken heart, and dry affliction's tear ;
Pluck the wan Debtor from his noisome den,
And launch him on the chearful walks of men,

Woman.

If such there be, oh lead me to their sight,
And let me plead a wretched sufferer's right.

Can

Can there be truth, humanity, or sense
In laws, that make misfortune an offence?
Torn from his famish'd babes, and frantic wife,
A father, husband, *there* must end his life!
Stretch'd on his straw the guiltless captive lies,
While round his temples sickly damps arise;
That e'en the murderer's ignominious fate
Were welcome refuge from *his* hopeless state.
Lost are the hands, whose honest labour fed
His helpless innocents with daily bread;
For day by day the busy loom he ply'd,
With soft Contentment singing by his side:
Till heaven flung out the signal to destroy,
And dropt the curtain o'er this scene of joy.
Nine tedious weeks the languid patient lay
To dire disease an unresisting prey;
The tenth succeeded—when, alas! behold
A worse tormentor, in a human mould,
A griping creditor:—escape who can,
When man's great foe assumes the shape of man!
Steel'd to their trade, and deaf to all our cries,
Relentless ruffians seize their legal prize;
From my fond arms a dying husband tear,
And plunge their victim in a dungeon—there.

Man.

Enough! go speak the healing words of peace
To thy sad mate, and bear him this release.
Tell him the Muse, who, on these scenes attends,
That balsam to his wounded spirit sends;
And know this truth thyself; 'Tis not alone
The preacher's pulpit, or the monarch's throne,

That

116 *Account of the Society for Relief*

That Charity frequents; but in this age
She guides the Theatre, and treads the Stage:
Lo! she is present,—cast your eyes around,
And here, in each spectator's heart she's found.

III.

O D E.

*To the SOCIETY for relieving PERSONS
confin'd for SMALL DEBTS.*

I.

"BLEST is the man," so sings the hallow'd Bard,
"Who to the needy lends a willing ear:
"Who views the poor with pitying eye,
"Nor proudly spurns the wretched when they cry:
"Heaven will his pious care reward,
"From ev'ry trouble set him clear."
Hail, CHARITY! thou heavenly guest;
Come, fill our hearts with love divine,
Best virtue of the human breast,
Above them all transcendent shine!

Point

of Persons confined for Small Debts. 117

Point out to us the pleasing road
Which leads to glory, and to GOD :
Oh fill our souls with love sincere,
And from the Christian eye extract the pious tear.

II.

See Indigence extend
Her wither'd hand, and sickly eye ;
Hope bids her seek a tender friend,
To shield from sad necessity.
She bids her trust Almighty power,
To bless the future happy hour ;
And melt those hearts his mighty fingers made
To be by heavenly passions sway'd.

III.

Industry, with careful hand,
Dispenses blessings o'er the land ;
While Merit thro' the sciences extends
Her searching powers, for noblest ends :
But,—sad imprisonment detains,
And binds them with inglorious chains !
Nerveless those hands, which others' wants supply !
Industry fair would grant her future pow'r,
To crown with blessings each laborious hour ;
She asks,—what Freedom's sons will ne'er deny,—
To make their varied commerce tell,
Britons in arts as well as arms excell.

IV.

Soft Innocence imploring stands
With lovely looks, uplifted hands !

118 *Account of the Society for Relief*

Can BRITONS turn a tearless eye,
Or banish tender sympathy ?
Refuse to shield from future woe
The hands from whence *their* comforts flow ?
Th' industrious father,—and the faithful wife,
The social balm of human life—
His tenderest refuge from the pangs of grief :
Fill'd with affection, see, her streaming eyes
In silent sorrow wooe the pitying skies !
From HEAVEN, and *You*, she seeks relief.

V.

Ye generous *Fair* ! whose bosoms feel
The keenest pangs for others' woe,
Your soft sensations strive not to conceal :
And, while the crystal torrents flow,
Indulge the heav'n-born sympathy ;
'Tis *Virtue* sparkling in your eye !
Tears of humanity more grace the fair,
Than diamonds glittering in their glossy hair.

VI.

Ye bright examples of the age,
Let soft Humanity your thoughts engage !
Who love their Country and their God,
Who would escape Affliction's rod ;
Who wish a lasting peace to gain,
Immortal honour to obtain ;
Let *them* exert their utmost power,
To shield Misfortune in her trying hour !
Let streams of generous bounty flow ;
From merit ward th' impending blow :

But

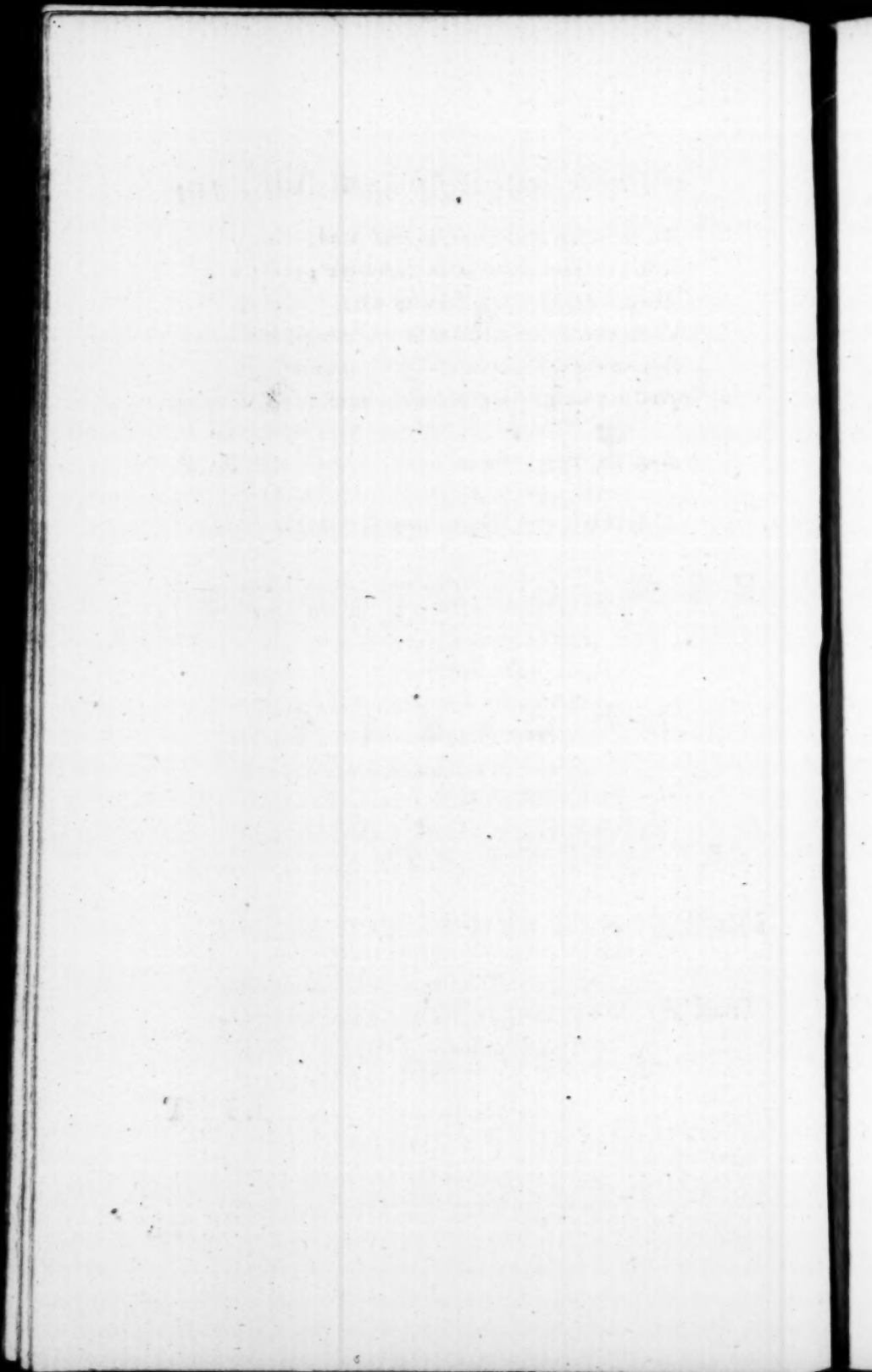
of Persons confined for Small Debts. 119

Bid Industry uprear her languid head,
Save Innocence from want and dread ;
Reward the dear, the faithful wife,
Chear the sad mourner with returning life :
Approving conscience shall your praises sing,
And to your glowing hearts the truest comforts bring.

Dec. 20, 1773.

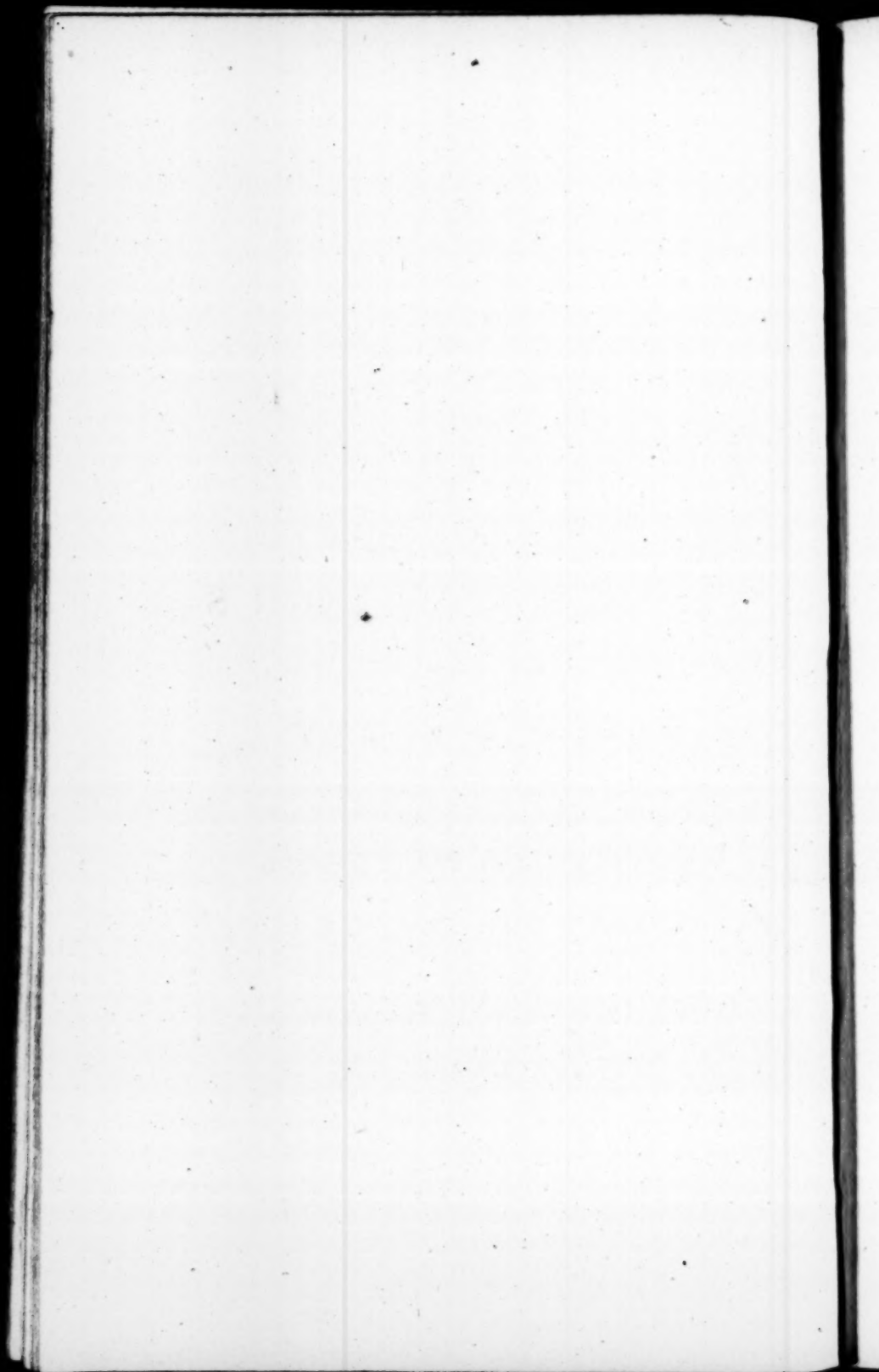
W. A. W.

LIST



A
L I S T
O F
GENERAL AND ANNUAL
B E N E F A C T I O N S
T O T H E
S O C I E T Y
F O R
RELIEF OF PERSONS
IMPRISONED FOR SMALL DEBTS.

From the INSTITUTION in FEBRUARY 1772,
to the 31st of MARCH 1789.



ADVERTISEMENT.

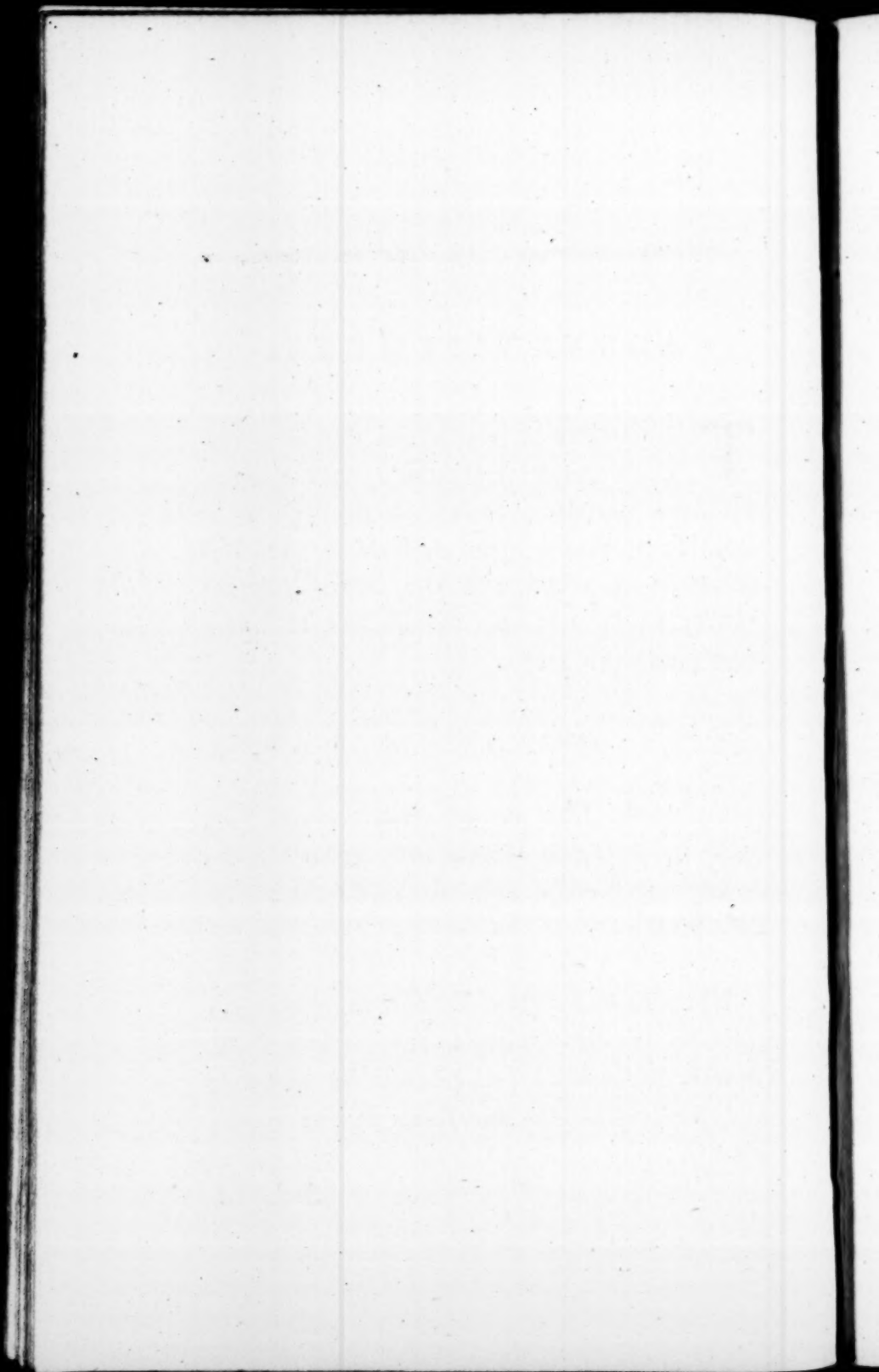
THE Society have observed, that in seven-
Years many Benefactors have adopted
the *same* Signature, such as A B. A C. A D.
&c. &c. so that it is not possible for such Be-
nefactors to distinguish the Sums they fe-
verally paid; nor for the Society to know
who paid those Sums.

It was therefore proposed, and unanimously

Resolved, That all such Sums as have been
paid by *unknown* Benefactors under initial
Letters only, be printed under the title
ANONYMOUS.

Nevertheless, every Benefactor may have
recourse to the Society's Minute and Cash
Books, to see the Entry of each Benefaction,
and the Day it was advertised in the public
Papers.

A LIST



A
L I S T
O F
GENERAL AND ANNUAL
BENEFACTIONS

From the INSTITUTION in FEBRUARY 1772,
to the 31st of MARCH 1789.

*Those marked with an * are annual Benefactors, Governors, and of the Committee.—
Those marked with ** are Governors for Life.—
Those marked (s) have been Stewards.*

£. s. d.

ANONYMOUS, including
all Sums under two Guineas, being paid from Persons unknown, under various initial Letters; yet have been particularly advertised, and remain in the Society's Books, with the Dates when they were received,

F 3

562 1 2
Anonymous,

BENEFACCTIONS.

£. s. d.

Anonymous, including all Sums under <i>Five Guineas</i> , -	955	13	7
Ditto, including all Sums from <i>Five Guineas to Ten Guineas</i>	1766	19	9

A.

A Friend to Lord Beauchamp, (<i>Vice President</i>) by his Lordship, four Benefactions, - - -	115	0	0
A Lady by Mr. Neild, - - -	5	5	0
A Lady, by Treasurer, - - -	3	3	0
A Lady unknown, by R. Robinson, -	5	0	0
A Lady, E. H. - - -	10	10	0
A Lady, by Hoare and Co. -	10	0	0
A Lady unknown, three Benefac- tions, - - - -	30	0	0
A Lady, a Well Wisher, -	10	0	0
A Lady unknown, two Benefac- tions, by E. Smith, - -	15	0	0
Mr. William Atwick, sen. -	6	6	0
J. Mr. James Ansell, four Bene- factions, - - - -	8	8	0
* Mr. Akerman, per Secretary, eight Benefactions, - -	19	19	0
* Paul Agutter, Esq. eleven Be- nefactions, - - -	23	2	0
* s Thomas			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
* s Thomas Adderley, Esq. fifteen Benefactions, - - -	32	13	0
* E. Allin, Esq. nine Benefactions, 22	0	0	0
A. B. by Mr. Nelme, -	100	0	0
* A. Z. three Benefactions, by Mr. Nelme, - - -	60	0	0
A. B. - - -	20	0	0
Laurence Ashbourne, Esq. -	5	5	0
A Nobleman, C. C. - -	10	10	0
A Lady, by the Hon. Captain Walsingham, <i>deceased</i> , -	8	8	0
A Person unknown, by W. W.	20	0	0
A Person in the Country, by J. V.	5	5	0
A Wager concerning the fate of Mr. Wilkes's Election to the Mayoralty, intended to have been spent at a Tavern, -	3	13	6
A. T. by Messrs. Dorrien, -	12	12	0
Hon. Mr. Justice Aston, <i>deceased</i> ,	5	5	0
Mr. Stephen Aisley. - -	2	2	0
Mr. Thomas Adam, - -	5	5	0
Mr. Cain Adams, - -	4	4	0
An Acknowledgement to an Officer of the Navy at Dover, -	5	5	0
Mrs. A——r, - - -	20	0	0
A Hackney Coach Fine, J. W. -	0	5	0
F 4			A Lady

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
A Lady, by Messrs. Coutts, -	5	5	0
A Lady, by Mr. Minchin, -	5	5	0
Mrs. A** C——ll, <i>deceased</i> , -	4	4	0
A Lady unknown, by J. T. -	4	4	0
A Lady unknown, - - -	100	0	0
A Wager between J. P. and T. C.	60	0	0
A. B. - - - -	20	0	0
A. by the Rev. Mr. L'Herondoll, <i>deceased</i> , - - - -	10	0	0
A Collection by Servants in a Fa- mily, - - - -	4	8	0
A. B. by Messrs. Biddulph and Co. twenty-two Benefactions, -	46	4	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Ashton, -	5	5	0
Amed, put into the Letter Box,	3	3	0
Mr. Astley, a Benefit at his Am- phitheatre, - - -	20	10	0
A. D. - - - -	21	0	0
Alderman, Deputy and Common Council of Farringdon Within	25	11	0
A Lady, sixth Benefaction, -	50	0	0
A Lady, by the Rev. Dr. Trotter, four Benefactions - -	21	0	0
A Lady, by the Rev. Anthony Natt, five Benefactions, -	18	18	0
A Lady unknown, two Benefactions	25	0	0
A Lady			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
A Lady unknown, by Mr. Crane,	2	2	0
Mr. Arnold, - -	2	2	0
* Rev. John Acland, two Benefactions, - -	6	6	0
A. E. by Treasurer, - -	21	0	0
A. E. by Mr. Nelme, -	100	0	0
A Clergyman, - -	5	5	0
A Forfeit, - -	2	2	0
Anonymous, several Benefactors under this Signature, -	18	18	0
A Heart blessed with Humanity,	5	5	0
A young Lady unknown, -	50	0	0
A Lady unknown, -	10	0	0
A Lady, put into the Letter Box,	1	1	0
* John Julius Angexstein, Esq. -	2	2	0
A Lady in Derbyshire, by Messrs. Wilkinson of Chesterfield, -	2	2	0
A. B. S. for Relief of poor Debtors, per Biddulph and Co. -	10	0	0
A Lady, for Christ's sake, per Coutts and Co. paid into Hoare's Banking House, -	2	2	0
** Edmund Antrobus, Esq. -	21	0	0
A Friend, by Dr. Lettsom, -	1	1	0
A Clergyman, - -	3	3	0
A Gentleman from India, -	36	0	0

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
* Sir Joseph Andrews, Bart. -	2	2	0
* James Pettit Andrews, Esq. -	2	2	0
A London Tradesman's one Year's Profit, by Messrs. Bland and Co.	383	5	0
** The Trustees of Bishop Andrews's Charity, three Benefactions, - - - -	440	0	0

B.

* Right Hon. Lord Beauchamp, Vice President, six Benefactions,	116	5	0
** Earl of Buckinghamshire, three Benefactions, - - -	66	0	0
** Earl of Bristol, - -	20	0	0
* Earl of Breadalbane, -	10	10	0
* Right Hon. Lord Bulkley, 2 Benefactions, per Treasurer, -	4	4	0
** Francis Bonham, Esq. -	100	0	0
* Richard Beecher, Esq. six Benefactions, - - -	38	17	0
s Theodore H. Broadhead, Esq. thirteen Benefactions, -	68	7	4
* Nathaniel Brassey, Esq. -	21	0	0
* Mr. John Bradney, seven Benefactions, - - - -	14	14	0
* Isaac			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
* Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq. fourteen Benefactions, per Secretary, - - -	78	15	0
* s William Bayntum, Esq. -	5	5	0
s Messrs. Biddulph and Cocks, five Benefactions, - -	17	17	0
Lady F. Burgoyne, per Messrs. Hoares, - - - -	1	1	0
W. B. - - - -	0	10	6
* John Barnard, Esq. four Benefactions, - - -	21	0	0
s John Boldero, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , six Benefactions, - - -	98	11	6
s John Buller, Esq. - -	10	10	0
John Barber, Esq. - -	2	2	0
Mr. Samuel Briggs, six Benefactions, - - - -	12	12	0
Hon. Mr. Justice Blackstone, <i>deceased</i> , five Benefactions, -	13	13	0
Laurence Beauchamp, Esq. -	2	2	0
Sir Charles Bunbury, - -	10	10	0
The Rev. F. Bacon, - -	3	3	0
Mr. Barker, of Lyndon, Rutlandshire, - - - -	5	5	0
Miss Boyle, by the Hon. Captain Walsingham, <i>deceased</i> , *	2	2	0
F 6		** Mr.	

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
** Mr. Bullock - -	20	0	0
B. Y. - - -	41	0	0
John Bond, Esq. <i>deceased</i> -	5	5	0
Thomas Boddington, Esq. -	5	5	0
Mr. Burrell, - -	3	3	0
Philip Broke, Esq. -	5	5	0
Rev. Nicholas Bacon, -	5	5	0
Miss Brown, <i>deceased</i> , -	2	2	0
Mr. Henry Busby, - -	4	4	0
Mr. John Bromley, - -	8	8	0
Hon. Mrs. Boscawen, four Benefactions, - -	13	13	0
Mr. Edward Bevan, - -	6	6	0
Mrs. Bannister, per the Rev. Dr. Seally, - - -	1	1	0
** Henry Bosanquet, Esq. -	21	0	0
** James Buller, Esq. per Ransom and Co. - -	25	0	0
Benjamin Barnett, Esq. per Dorrien and Co. - -	5	5	0
Mrs. Brewster, Clapton, -	1	1	0
Buckland Nutcomb Bluett, Esq. -	2	2	0
Francis Bassett, Esq. three Benefactions, - -	20	10	0
Rev. Thomas Bentham, two Benefactions, - -	4	4	0
			Mr.

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Thomas Brewman, -	4	4	0
Hon. Charlotte Bouverie, two Benefactions, - -	3	3	0
Rev. Mr. Baynes, of Stonham Asfall, - -	3	3	0
Mr. Bowles, for the Marshalsea, - - -	148	2	2
John Berens, Esq. - -	5	5	0
Mr. Barrow, by Mr. Gough, -	2	9	0
Mr. Bonus, by Hoare and Co. -	1	1	0
Thomas Bridge, Esq. by Biddulph and Co. - - -	5	5	0
** Edward Blakeney, Esq. Executor to the late Sir Robert Rich, Bart. three Benefactions, - - -	60	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Bouverie, by Mr. Antrobus - - -	2	2	0
** Hugh Burgefs, Esq. by Treasurer, three Benefactions, - -	300	0	0
** Joseph Boulton, Esq. Baxterly, Warwickshire, -	20	0	0
John Thomas Batt, Esq. per Hoares, - -	3	3	0

Collections

BENEFACTIONS.

£. s. d.

C.

Collections at sundry Churches, &c. viz.

1772	Charlotte Street and Bedford Chapels, - -	81	1	0
	Charlotte Street Chapel, -	31	9	0
1773	Saint Mary, Somerset, -	8	3	0
	Queen Street Chapel, -	36	13	7
1774	St. Saviour's and St. John's,	134	19	0
1775	The Rev. Mr. Herries's Meeting in the Old Jewry,	38	3	6
	St. Paul's, Covent Garden,	18	0	0
	St. Mary, Whitechapel, -	21	7	0
	Brompton Chapel, -	28	13	0
	St. George's, Hanover Square,	82	17	5
1776	St. George's, Southwark,	25	9	1
	Greenwich Church, -	83	5	0
	St. James's, Piccadilly, -	38	14	0
	Hampstead Church, -	72	16	6
	Richmond Ditto, -	102	3	9
1777	St. Bride's, Fleet Street, -	19	1	4
	Hackney Church, -	63	13	3
	Tavistock Chapel, -	31	10	0
	St. George's, Hanover Square,	39	7	9
	Clapham Church, -	47	18	7
	Kingston Ditto, - -	25	10	7
	Edmonton			

BENEFACCTIONS.

		£.	s.	d.
1777	Edmonton Church, -	29	10	0
	Twickenham Ditto, -	39	14	2
	Islington Ditto, - -	51	10	3
	St. Margaret's, Westminster, -	88	2	2
1778	Kensington Church, -	73	12	0
	HammerSmith Ditto, -	24	8	3
	Low Layton Ditto, -	22	18	6
	Tottenham Ditto, -	21	1	0
	Newington Ditto, Surry, -	17	10	8
	St. Giles's in the Fields, -	14	5	7
	Northampton Chapel, -	56	12	5
	Charlotte Street Chapel, -	48	7	9
1779	Salter's Hall Meeting -	47	1	0
	Chelsea Church, -	21	0	0
	Churchwardens of St. Mil-			
	dred, Poultry, - -	40	0	0
	South Audley Chapel, -	88	4	6
	St. Andrews, Holborn, -	23	13	6
	Isleworth, - - -	23	10	9
	St. Peter's, Cornhill, -	14	12	8
	St. Clement Danes, -	19	10	2
1780	Lambeth Church, -	56	0	0
1781	Putney Church, - -	26	12	1
	St. Martin and St. Philip,			
	Birmingham - -	88	8	0
1782	Camberwell Church, -	40	15	0
	Petersham			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
1782 Peterſham Church, -	16	6	4
1786 St. Bride's, Fleet Street,	5	19	9
Richmond Church, -	53	13	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kenſington Ditto, -	27	16	7
Mortlake, - -	31	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
1787 St. Bennett Fink, Thread- needle Street, -	5	6	6
St. Saviour's, Southwark,	22	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. John's, Horſley Down,	16	13	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Mary, Lambeth, -	45	2	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Greenwich Church, -	43	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Park Chapel, Chelſea, -	8	7	6
St. Laurence Jury Church,	9	16	8
* The Moſt Rev. Dr. Cornwallis, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, <i>de- ceaſed</i> , - - -	30	0	0
** s Lord Craven, -	20	0	0
Mr. Conyers, five Benefactions,	10	10	0
* Mr. Henry Carter, three Bene- factions, - -	6	6	0
Lady Francis Coningſby, two Be- nefactions, - -	21	0	0
* s George Coleman, Eſq. three Benefactions, - -	35	15	0
* s Rev. John Craven, four Bene- factions, - -	11	11	0
			Mrs.

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Cripps, at Bath, -	21	0	0
Mr. Crawley, fix Benefactions,	12	12	0
Mrs. Ann Cottelworth, -	20	0	0
* Mr. De Champ, - -	21	0	0
Lady Edward Clive, - -	2	2	0
Lady Clayton, - - -	2	2	0
Mr. B. Conquest, Birmingham,	2	2	0
Mr. Rowland Conyers, three Benefactions, - - -	6	6	0
Mr. Noah Clye, nine Benefactions,	18	18	0
John Crewe, Esq. of Bolsfworth, Cheshire,— <i>See Legacies</i> , -	5	5	0
Francis Casyl, Esq. two Benefactions, - - -	4	4	0
Char. San. - - -	5	5	0
Rev. Dr. Cockayne, - -	2	2	0
** Mr. Sheriff Curtis, -	10	10	0
Clericus, per Biddulph, Cocks, and Co. - - -	3	3	0
William Caldwell, Esq. per Fuller, Son and Co. - -	5	5	0
Rev. Philip Cocks, two Benefactions,	2	2	0
C. C. - - -	50	0	0
Clio, by Mr. Clark, three Benefactions, - - -	6	6	0
John Campbell, Esq -	5	5	0
	Mrs.		

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Clutterbuck, at Bath, -	10	10	0
Charles Cotton, Esq. - -	3	3	0
Mrs. Cox, - - - -	1	1	0
Mrs. Mary Curtis, by Dorrien and Co. - - - -	1	1	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Cox, by Biddulph and Co. - - - -	2	2	0
Mrs. Eleanor Code, - -	2	2	0
Mrs. Charity, per Messrs. Hoares, From a Clergyman in Derbyshire, by Messrs. Wilkinsons of Ches- terfield, - - - -	3	3	0
Miss Conyers, per Messrs. Hoares,	2	2	0
Charity, per Treasurer, - -	1	1	0

D.

* His Grace the Duke of Devon- shire, - - - -	10	10	0
Her Grace the Duchess of Devon- shire, - - - -	10	0	0
John Delme, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	36	16	0
John Darker, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , eleven Benefactions, - - -	63	0	0
Deborah, (a Lady) four Benefac- tions, - - - -	105	0	0
Lady D'Aeth, two Benefactions, -	4	4	0
* s Jofiah			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
* s Josiah Dornford, Esq. nine Benefactions, - - -	18	18	0
* Hon. Baron Dimisdale, eleven Benefactions, - - -	39	8	0
Dean of Exeter, two Benefactions,	10	10	0
Hon. D. E. - - -	2	2	0
Mrs. Abiah Derby, - -	5	5	0
Charles Dickenson, Esq. -	2	2	0
Mr. Constant Decharme, -	2	2	0
* John English Dolben, Esq. three Benefactions, - -	7	7	0
* Andrew Darrell, Esq. per Fuller Son and Co. - - -	2	2	0
James Davidson, Esq. - -	10	0	0
* Mr. Thomas Dawes, ten Bene- factions, - - -	21	0	0
Mrs. Ann Dean, of Bath, four Be- factions, - - -	29	15	0
D. D. by Mr. Nelme, -	200	0	0
Mr. Benjamin Dorset, <i>deceased</i> , -	2	2	0
Peter Du Cane, Esq. - -	5	5	0
Mrs. Dawson, - - -	5	0	0
Sir William Desse, - -	2	2	0
Mr. Francis Davis, - -	2	2	0
Mr. Richard Dixon, - -	2	14	6
— Dehaney, Esq. - -	4	5	0
		Rev.	

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Rev. Dr. Dukin, three Benefactions,	6	6	0
Mr. Du Bellamy, - -	7	7	0
Sir Peter Dennis, <i>deceased</i> , -	5	5	0
Christopher Dawson, Esq. -	7	7	0
William Dawson, Esq. -	5	5	0
Samuel Dobree, Esq. -	2	2	0
Peter Dobree, Esq. - -	2	2	0
* Alexander Duncan, Esq. two Benefactions, - -	4	4	0
* George Drummond, Esq. <i>de- ceased</i> , two Benefactions, -	10	10	0
Magens Dorrien, Esq. per Dor- rien and Co. - -	5	5	0
* Robert Dower, Esq. per Secretary,	2	2	0

E.

* Hon. Edward James Eliot, -	2	2	0
** E. I. Esq. St. Thomas's, eight Benefactions, - -	320	0	0
Lady Edmonston, ten Benefac- tions, per Treasurer, -	21	0	0
** Mr. Charles Ellis, of Almack's, Pall Mall, being part of Da- mages he recovered by a Suit at Law for Defamation, -	50	0	0
		Sidney	

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Sidney Evelyn, M. L. of Upton			
Grey, Hants, - - -	6	6	0
Mr. Joseph Edwards, - - -	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. E. two Benefactions, -	4	4	0
* John Eyles, Esq. four Benefactions, 8	8	8	0
* Charles Eyre, Esq. ten Benefactions, - - -	22	1	0
Exchequer Jury, by one of those			
Gentlemen, - - -	17	2	0
E. N. Bank Note, No. 7600, per			
Messrs. Hoares, - - -	10	0	0
* Mr. Evans, per Messrs. Hoares,			
two Benefactions, - - -	4	4	0
John Elliott, Esq. two Benefactions, 6	6	6	0

F.

Right Hon. Lady Charlotte Finch,			
per Treasurer, - - -	5	5	0
* Lord Viscount Folkestone, two			
Benefactions, - - -	10	10	0
* William Fuller, Esq. fourteen			
Benefactions, - - -	29	8	0
* Mr. William Faden, thirteen			
Benefactions, - - -	27	6	0
Lady Mary Fitzgerald, two Bene-			
factions, - - -	10	10	0
F. R. S. deceased, -	52	10	0
	F. R. S.		

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
T. E. Freeman, Esq. - -	5	5	0
Thomas Fairfax, Esq. of Tadcaster, three Benefactions, -	13	3	0
The Stewards of the Grand Feast of Free and Accepted Masons, 1773, being the Balance of the Treasurer's Accounts, - -	4	4	0
Hon. Mrs. F. - - -	20	0	0
John Freeman, Esq. per Treasurer, -	5	5	0
** Thomas Edwards Freeman, Esq. per Treasurer, for the Gaols of Gloucester, Worcester, and Warwick, - -	300	0	0
N. Fenwick, Esq. per Gosling, received at Messrs. Hoares, -	10	0	0
Walter Fletcher, Esq. two Benefactions, - - - -	10	10	0
John Forster, Esq. three Benefactions, - - - -	15	15	0
Raphael Franco, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	3	3	0
Mr. Charles Funter, <i>deceased</i> , -	4	4	0
Mr. Charles Fourdrinier, -	4	4	0
F. returned Part of the Money paid him	3	5	0
Flory Aubrey, Esq. - -	21	0	0
A Fine from a Hackney Coachman,	0	10	0
Ditto, - - - -	0	5	0
Ditto, - - - -	0	5	0

BENEFACTIONS.

£. s. d.

James Farrer, Esq. per Hoares,						
second Benefaction, - -	10	10	0			
Found in the Letter Box, -	1	1	0			
Ditto, - - - -	0	1	0			
Ditto, - - - -	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Ditto, - - - -	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$			

G.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Godolphin, <i>deceased</i> , by Mr. Hughes, - - -	100	0	0			
* The Right Hon. the Earl of Guildford, nine Benefactions, 94	10	0				
** Sir John Griffin Griffin, Bart. 20	0	0				
**s Sir Sampson Gideon, Bart. three Benefactions, - -	55	5	0			
Lady Dowager Frances Galloway, five Benefactions, - -	21	0	0			
Mr. Richard Graffwell, five Benefactions, - - - -	10	10	0			
William Gardiner, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , 84	0	0				
G. No. 68, per Treasurer, -	6	6	0			
Mr. William Gordon, - -	2	2	0			
G. O. for the Debtors in Newgate, 5	5	0				
H. D. Godding, accompanied by a Letter, put into the Box, -	0	1	0			
					James	

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
James Gladell, Esq. - -	2	2	0
Mrs. Hester Greville, - -	3	3	0
Lady Griffin, - - -	2	2	0
Robert Gosling, Esq. - -	2	2	0
Grand Jury for the City and Liberty of Westminster, -	5	5	0
Mr. Greville, - - -	3	3	0
Mrs. Gardiner, - - -	5	5	0
G. R. by Mr. Nelme, -	20	0	0
Mr. Jonathan Goff, eight Benefactions, - - -	8	8	0
William Greenwood, Esq. -	4	4	0
Mrs. Mary Goff, nine Benefactions, 7	7	7	0
Mr. Goolding, - - -	2	2	0
** G. W. Z. eight Benefactions, by Mr. Grasswell, -	120	4	6
G. W. a fine from a Chairman, -	1	0	0
G. No. 48, per Treasurer, -	5	5	0
Dowager Lady Galway, -	5	5	0
G. No. 54, - - -	6	6	0
Mrs. Grignion, - - -	1	1	0
I. G. fourth Benefaction, per Treasurer, - - -	20	0	0
Richard Glover, Esq. - -	2	2	0
Mr. Stephen Goddard, - -	2	2	0
			Mrs.

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Jane Gastrill, fifth Benefac-			
tion, per Treasurer,	-	20	0 0

H.

**s The Right Hon. the Earl of Hertford, nine Benefactions,	190	0	0
*s The Right Hon. the Earl of Hardwicke, six Benefactions,	80	10	0
The Right Hon. the Countess of Huntingdon, - - -	5	5	0
*s Sir Robert Hamilton, <i>deceased</i> , eleven Benefactions, - -	23	2	0
Lady Hamilton, ten Benefactions,	21	0	0
* Henry Hoare, Esq. and Co. -	23	2	0
** J. Zephaniah Holwell, Esq.	50	0	0
Richard Heighway, Esq. eight Benefactions, - - -	47	5	0
John Howard, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	21	0	0
John Henderfon, Esq. six Benefactions, - - -	12	12	0
Mr. William Hill, <i>deceased</i> , seven Benefactions, - - -	14	14	0
* Mr. Thomas Hull, seven Benefactions, - - -	14	14	0
* Mr. John Haines, twelve Benefactions, - - -	25	4	0

G

Mrs.

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Marianna Hayes, seven Benefactions, - -	8	8	0
James Haughton, Esq. -	10	10	0
Henry Hawlay, Esq. two Benefactions, - -	10	10	0
Miss Hockley, - -	5	5	0
Isaac Hawkins, Esq. nine Benefactions, - -	90	0	0
H. M. - - -	20	0	0
Dr. Hill, <i>deceased</i> , - -	2	2	0
Mr. Lowen Hood, two Benefactions, - - -	4	4	0
Rev. Mr. Hankey, - -	2	2	0
Peter Hodgson, Esq. -	5	5	0
Dr. Hawley, - -	10	10	0
Rev. Mr. Holcombe, two Benefactions, - - -	4	4	0
Alexander Hume, Esq. -	2	2	0
William Higginson, Esq. four Benefactions, - -	8	8	0
Edmund Higginson, Esq. -	2	2	0
Richard Holt, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	5	5	0
Mr. Higden, - -	2	2	0
Miss Bet. Hatfell, six Benefactions, -	6	6	0
Mrs. Margaret Hayes, -	2	2	0
			Mr.

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Christopher James Hayes, two Benefactions, - -	4	4	0
Captain Hooper, - -	2	2	0
Mr. Thomas Heathcote, - -	2	2	0
Miss Heathcote, - -	2	2	0
Thomas Heyward, Esq. two Be- nefactions, - -	2	2	0
Mr. Hiorne, - -	1	1	0
Mr. Heyward of Wetherington, -	1	1	0
Mr. Holden, Birmingham, -	10	10	0
* Rev. Lewis Hughes, seven Be- nefactions, and Stamp, - -	14	14	2
Dr. William Heberden, by Hoare and Co. - -	10	0	0
Mr. Joseph Hardcastle, -	10	10	0
** Thomas Hammersley, Esq.	20	0	0
** From Robert Hunter, Esq. King's Arms Yard, Part of a Sum of Money remaining in his Hands, arising from Salvage of Goods on Board the Ships Rose- mount and Catherine, taken and retaken last War, and which, although frequently ad- vertised, has never been claim- ed, - - -	55	12	0
G 2			Doctor

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Doctor Joseph Hulme, of Halifax,			
by Mr. Antrobus, paid at Mess.			
Hoares, annual,	4	4	0
Mrs. Hyde, five Benefactions,	14	14	0
Hardcastle and Corbie, Esqrs.	10	0	0
Mrs. Holder, per Treasurer, -	4	4	0
Master Hooper Holder, per ditto,	4	4	0
Hoare and Co. by Mr. Willis, -	5	5	0
Mrs. Hawkins, per Lieut. Colonel			
Trelawney, - - -	2	2	0

I.

I. B. by Mr. Nelme, -	100	0	0
Mr. Jordan, - - -	9	9	0
Mrs. Jebb, - - -	2	2	0
Henry Johnson, Esq. -	2	2	0
Mr. Joseph Jukes, -	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. Ibbetson, - -	2	2	0
I. G. by Robert Child, Esq.	20	0	0
I. P. - - - - -	20	0	0
I. D. from the Country, -	4	4	0
Sir William Jones, -	5	5	0
I. B. a Balance received of I. C.	4	0	1
Henry Jacomb, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	4	4	0
William Ives, Esq. by Fuller and			
Co. three Benefactions, -	4	4	0
			In

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
In Usum Societatis ab 10 put into			
the Letter Box, Craven Street,	2	2	0
Henry Jacomb, Esq. by Messrs.			
Fullers, - - - -	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. Jenner, two Benefactions,	2	2	0
Joseph Johnson, Esq. by Dr. Hawes,	2	2	0
I. X. - - - -	100	0	0
Mr. Jacques, per Dorrien and Co.	5	5	0
I. H. an Old Country Clergyman,	5	0	0
Mr. Joseph James, jun. Letter Box,	5	5	0
Houghton James, Esq. per Ran-			
dom and Co. - - -	5	5	0
Involuntary, from a Hackney Coach,	0	5	0

K.

* s Right Hon. Lord King, five			
Benefactions, - -	50	10	0
* Right Hon. Lord Kinsborough,	10	0	0
Richard Kenfall, Esq. - -	3	3	0
Mr. Alexander Kilgour, <i>deceased</i> , -	4	4	0
Rev. John Knightly, - -	2	2	0
** Gustav. Adolphus Kempen-			
felt, seven Benefactions, -	140	0	0
Robert Kelham, Esq. five Bene-			
factions, - - - -	5	5	0

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Kneller, Donhead Hall, by			
Mr. Graffwell, - -	1	1	0
Wm. Kerr, Esq. Edinburgh, by			
Dr. Lettsom, - -	3	3	0

L.

Legacies received.

Lady Osborne, - -	208	0	0
Mr. Daniel Remy, -	100	0	0
Mrs. Henrietta Maria Tomlinson, 405	0	0	
John Cale, Esq. - -	200	0	0
A Lady, - - -	50	0	0
Mr. John Bispham, -	50	0	0
Mr. Robert Clee, - -	50	0	0
Mrs. Mary Bourne, - -	100	0	0
Lady Catharine Noel, -	10	0	0
William Congreve, Esq. -	1000	0	0
Mrs. Mary Wylde, by Francis Bowdler, Esq. - -	100	0	0
Executors of Mrs. Elizabeth Cumyns, by the Rev. Doctor Markham, to be applied solely to the Gaol at Whitechapel,	100	0	0
William Crewe, Esq. annual, -	24	16	0
John Darker, Esq. -	50	0	0
Mrs. Cutts, by Mr. Scott, -	37	0	0
			The

BENEFACTIONS.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The Rev. Isaac Cooper, Eye, Suffolk,	50	0	0
Executors of John Barnard, Esq.			
by Thomas Hankey, Esq.	- 300	0	•
Executrixes of L. D. Nelme, Esq.			
late Secretary to this Society,	- 10	0	•
Executors of Thomas Tolson, Esq.	200	0	•
Arrears due from an annual Legacy of the late William Crew, Esq. by Mr. Foss,	- 50	•	•
Thomas Gardner, Esq. late of Hampstead—A Part of the Remainder of Effects left to twelve Charities; which, depending upon Contingencies, cannot yet be ascertained.			

L continued.

The Right Rev. Dr. Terrick, late Bishop of London, three Benefactions,	-	-	30	10	0
The Right Rev. Dr. Lowth, Bishop of London, <i>deceased</i> , two Benefactions,	-	-	20	10	•
The Right Rev. Bishop of Landaff,	5	5	0		
The Right Rev. Bishop of Lincoln,	-	-	5	5	0
	G	4		Peter	

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Peter Leheup, jun. Esq. <i>deceased</i> ,	100	0	0
Miss Lockart, - - -	2	2	0
*s London Exchange Banking Company, St. James's Street, fourteen Benefactions, -	65	7	0
* Stephen Lushington, Esq. -	5	5	0
Mr. James Lowe, - -	4	4	0
The Old Club at Le Tellieurs, in Half Moon Street, Piccadilly,	22	1	0
Lazzaroni Club, at the Thatched House Tavern, by their Presi- dent, T. G. Fothergill, Esq.	37	16	0
London Coffee House, -	13	19	0
L. A. R. - - - -	20	0	0
Messrs. Lowry and Newton, -	9	9	0
Baker John Littlehales, Esq. -	2	2	0
Mr. Evan Law, per Treasurer, -	3	3	0
Hon. L. K. per Treasurer, five Benefactions, - - -	5	5	0
L. W. Clericus, two Benefactions,	6	6	0
Lady L. W. - - -	10	10	0
Lady, H. W. - - -	10	10	0
Lady, M. W. - - -	10	10	0
Mr. James Lock, - -	2	2	0
Mr. Alexander Lean, -	8	8	0
Mrs. Leigh, four Benefactions, -	8	8	0
			Miss

BENEFLECTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Miss Lewis, three Benefactions, -	6	6	0
Lodge of Cousins, Fleet Street, -	5	9	6
Mrs. Jane L. - - -	15	15	0
Mrs. Leheup, - - -	50	0	0
Mr. Levy, - - -	5	5	0
Miss Liddle, by T. F. -	5	0	0
Londinensis, - - -	7	4	0
* Dr. Lettsom, 3 Benefactions, -	14	14	0
J. Leroux, Esq. - - -	1	1	0

M.

* Sir Charles Middleton, Bart.			
Vice President, two Benefactions,	4	4	0
* M. W. a Lady, by Lord Romney, - - -	100	0	0
Sir Sydney Meadows, seven Benefactions, - - -	350	0	0
** Lord Maynard, - - -	21	0	0
* s Hon. Charles Marsham, thirteen Benefactions, -	51	9	0
James Martin, Esq. - - -	5	5	0
* s Joshua Mauger, Esq. eight Benefactions, - - -	16	16	0
Henry Major, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , four Benefactions, - - -	8	8	0
J. Micklethwaite, Esq. per Hoare,	10	0	0
G 5			
* William			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
* William Marriott, Esq. six Benefactions,	-	-	31 10 0
* Dr. Marriott, five Benefactions,	11	11	0
* John Moleworth, Esq. two Benefactions,	-	-	7 7 0
Rev. Mr. Mason, by Mr. Horsfield,	21	0	0
Miss M. F. by Mr. Gilbert, five Benefactions,	-	-	75 0 0
Hon. Mrs. Marsham, sixteen Benefactions,	-	-	52 10 0
Lady Milner,	-	-	2 2 0
Sir Horatio Mann, Bart.	-	-	5 5 0
Hon. Walter Moleworth,	-	-	10 0 0
Mr. William Miller,	-	-	2 2 0
James Mitchell, Esq. two Benefactions,	-	-	4 4 0
James Mathias, Esq.	-	-	5 5 0
Mrs. Mawhood, three Benefactions,	10	10	0
Mr. Thomas Marson, <i>deceased</i> ,	-	-	15 15 0
William Mills, Esq.	-	-	2 2 0
William Mills, jun. Esq.	-	-	2 2 0
Mrs. Mattocks, two Benefactions,	-	-	3 3 0
Mr. John Marson,	-	-	2 2 0
Rev. Dr. Markham, <i>deceased</i> , in addition to the Collection at St. Mary, Whitechapel,	-	-	4 4 0
			Dr.

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Dr. Manningham, four Benefac-			
tions, - - -	12	12	0
William Morland, Esq. -	10	0	0
Lady Miller, per Treasurer,			
eighteen Benefactions, -	37	16	0
N. Mariffall, Esq. - -	20	0	0
John Mavor, Esq. per Snaith, left			
at Fullers, - - -	5	5	0
Ditto, per Fuller, second Benefac-			
tion, - - -	10	0	0
Robert Mangles, Esq. 14 Benefac-			
tions, per Treasurer, -	29	8	0
* Gilbert Mitchell, Esq. two Be-			
nefactions, - - -	21	0	0
* Henry Eustace McCulloh, Esq.	2	2	0
Mr. Matcham, per Fuller, -	2	2	0
Mr. John Musgrove, -	6	6	0
M. S. a Jew Lady, - -	2	2	0
Merchant Taylor's Company, -	3	3	0
Solomon Musferis, Esq. -	2	2	0
* John Marratt, Esq. five Bene-			
factions, - - -	10	10	0
Arnold Mello, Esq. by Dorrien			
and Co. - - -	5	5	0
* T. Malkin, Esq. by Fuller and			
Co. three Benefactions, -	6	6	0

G 6

The

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
The Mite for Christ's sake, -	2	2	0
'The Widow's Mite for Christ's sake, 1	1	1	0
Mr. William Marwood, -	1	1	0
* Frederick Mathew, Esq. three Benefactions, - -	6	6	0
Nathaniel Middleton, Esq. two Benefactions, - -	5	5	0
J. Mavor, Esq. per Fuller, Son, and Co. - -	10	0	0

N.

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, <i>deceased</i> , four Benefactions, - - -	101	0	0
Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland, <i>deceased</i> , -	70	0	0
Hon. Mr. Justice Nares, nine Benefactions, - -	52	11	0
Mr. Nodes, four Benefactions, -	8	8	0
Mr. William Neild, <i>deceased</i> , fourteen Benefactions, -	29	8	0
* James Neild, Esq. Treasurer, sixteen Benefactions, -	33	12	0
Mr. Nelme, <i>deceased</i> , late Secretary to this Society, twelve Benefactions, - -	25	4	0
	James		

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
James Norman, Esq. -	10	0	0
Robert Nettleton, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	10	10	0
Nash, Edwards, and Petrie, -	10	10	0
Mr. Edward Neale, -	2	12	6
Rev. William Nowell, two Benefactions, - - -	7	2	0
Mr. Francis Newbery, jun. -	2	2	0
Mr. Nailer, - - -	2	2	0
Noah, Daniel, and Job, eight Benefactions, - - -	22	7	0
N. C. P. M. - - -	26	5	0
Noblemen and Gentlemen of the Sunday's Club at the Thatched House Tavern, by Thomas Dundas, Esq. - -	52	10	0
Mr. Cornelius Neep, -	2	2	0
John Newton, Esq. -	10	0	0
Noah, Job, and Cornelias, -	2	2	0
No. 7, Mr. Willis, - -	4	4	0
No. 23, by Mr. Willis, -	4	4	0
No. 24, Ditto, - - -	5	5	0
Nemo, at Biddulph and Co's, -	10	0	0
No. 50, by Treasurer, -	5	5	0
No. 60, per Ditto, - -	6	6	0
No. 60, G. - - -	6	6	0
No. 66, per Treasurer, -	6	6	0
			Rev.

BENEFACTIONS.

£. s. d.

O.

Rev. Dr. O. P. L. seven Benefactions,	-	-	14	14	0
Master Osborn, per the Rev. Dr. Seally,	-	-	0	10	6
O. A. L. S. S. D.	-		25	4	0
Mr. Ord,	-	-	10	0	0
Henry Overton, Esq. three Benefactions,	-	-	3	3	0

P.

* s Hon. Philip Pusey, fifteen Benefactions, Vice President,	-		75	13	0
The Right Reverend Lord Bishop of Peterborough,	-		5	5	0
* s John Parson, Esq. six Benefactions,	-	-	12	12	0
* James Preston, Esq. fifteen Benefactions,	-	-	31	10	0
Pantheon, by Messrs. Scotney and Co.	-	-	50	0	0
Dandby Pickering, Esq. <i>deceased</i> ,	-		8	8	0
Mr. Charles Parker,	-		4	4	0
Onesiphorus Paul, Esq.	-		3	3	0
Mrs. Parish, five Benefactions,	-		6	6	0
** Thomas					

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
** Thomas Plumer, Esq. -	21	0	0
The Provost of Eton, -	5	5	0
W. Pearce, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	12	12	0
P. C * * *, - - -	5	5	0
P. C. Esq. - - -	5	5	0
Persons unknown, by the Rev. J. Craven, - - -	8	8	0
Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre, by a Benefit Play, -	102	13	0
Granado Piggott, Esq. -	2	2	0
Thomas Preston, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	6	6	0
Hon. Mrs. Pulteney, six Benefactions, - - -	30	10	0
Proprietors of Blackstone's Commentaries, - - -	2	10	0
Mrs. Parish, - - -	7	7	0
Joseph Philips, Esq. -	4	4	0
Proprietors of Drury Lane, -	36	14	0
Mr. Christopher Pinchbeck, <i>deceased</i> , - - -	8	8	0
Mr. Robert Parker, - - -	3	3	0
Mr. Thomas Pitter, -	2	2	0
Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre, second Benefit, -	81	11	6
P. A. - - -	21	0	0
William			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
William Pooly, Esq -	10	10	0
Francis Paddy, Esq. -	10	0	0
Mr. Nathaniel Perkes, -	2	2	0
* Thomas Pattle, Esq. eight Benefactions, - - -	16	16	0
** John Plumbtree, Esq. by Treasurer, four Benefactions, -	21	0	0
Mr. David Powell, by William Scullard, Esq. two Benefactions, -	4	4	0
Richard Pottinger, Esq. -	5	5	0
J. Phipps, Esq. for a fine received by him from a Hackney Coachman, No. 492, - -	0	7	6
* Archibald Paxton, Esq. per Secretary, two Benefactions, -	4	4	0
* William Paxton, Esq. per Secretary, two Benefactions, -	4	4	0
* Mr. Poppleton, per Secretary, -	2	2	0
John Prideaux, Esq. returned part of the Money paid him, -	1	1	0
Part of a Legacy by a Lady, -	5	5	0
A Person unknown, by Miss Conyers, per Hoares, -	3	3	0
A Philanthropist, by Mr. Dornford, - - - -	100	0	0
* The			

BENEFACCTIONS.

£. s. d.

R.

* The Right Hon. Lord Romney, fifteen Benefactions,	-	78	15	0
Lord Romney, from a Lady unknown,	- - - -	5	5	0
*s The Right Hon. Earl of Radnor, Vice President, fifteen Benefactions,	- - -	105	0	0
Sir Robert Rich, Bart. <i>deceased</i> , by Mr. Nelme, two Benefactions,		200	0	0
Countess of Radnor,	- -	5	5	0
Mr. John Rice, <i>deceased</i> ,	-	6	6	0
Mr. John Rawlinson, <i>deceased</i> , ten Benefactions,	- -	21	0	0
Mrs. R. B.	- - -	15	0	0
Mr. Ruspini,	- - -	8	8	0
Mr. Reinhold,	- - -	3	3	0
Thomas Raikes, Esq. seven Benefactions,	- - -	14	0	0
R. M.	- - - -	12	12	0
Robert Mansby, Esq. seven Benefactions,	- - -	14	14	0
Dr. Thomas Randolph,	-	8	8	0
Miss Margaret Rennald,	-	3	3	0
Mr. Richard Richardson,	-	4	4	0
Mr. Rivington, seven Benefactions, per Secretary,	-	7	7	0
			Rural,	

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Rural, - - -	2	2	0
* Mr. Reynell, two Benefactions,	4	4	0
R. S. by Secretary, -	100	0	0
* Mr. Edward Ruffell, Maize Hill, by Fuller and Co. -	2	2	0

S.

The Right Hon. Earl of Shipbrook, late Vice President, <i>deceased</i> , nine Benefactions, by Mr. Nelme, - -	47	5	0
The Right Hon. Earl Stamford, eight Benefactions, -	105	0	0
** The Right Hon. Earl Stanhope,	21	0	0
The Right Hon. Lord Chief Baron Smythe, <i>deceased</i> , -	36	15	0
Lady Smythe, - -	13	5	0
The Right Hon. Lord Scarfsdale,	10	0	0
The Right Hon. Lord Sondes, -	10	10	0
Lady Sondes, - -	5	5	0
Lord Suffield, - -	2	2	0
Rev. Sir Martin Sykes, Bart. D. D. <i>deceased</i> , seventeen Benefactions,	170	0	0
* Charles Selwin, Esq. -	3	3	0
Dr. Smallbrook, <i>deceased</i> , -	5	5	0
Mr. John Stevens, <i>deceased</i> , seven Benefactions, - -	14	14	0
William			

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
William Strahan, Esq. -	4	4	0
* Mr. Charles Steuart, eight Benefactions, - -	16	16	0
Mr. John Smith, twelve Benefactions, - -	240	0	0
Mr. Robert Sanxay, <i>deceased</i> , -	8	8	0
Society of Gentlemen, meeting at the George and Vulture Tavern, in Cornhill, by Mr. Rutt, -	21	0	0
Sundry Gentlemen, by A. B. -	31	10	0
—— Simpson, Esq. by Mr. Sanxay, <i>deceased</i> , - -	5	5	0
Mrs. Singleton, by the Treasurer, twenty-five Benefactions, -	26	5	0
The Old Thursday's Club, at St. Alban's Tavern, -	17	17	0
John Speaker, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	100	0	0
Sundry Gentlemen from Ipswich, by Mr. Nelme, - -	4	16	0
Francis Schutz, Esq. three Benefactions, - - -	8	8	0
Mr. Daniel Sutton, -	2	2	0
William Stukeley, Esq. -	2	2	0
Richard Salwey, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	21	0	0
Scavoir Vivre Club, - -	52	10	0
			Mrs.

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Anna Snelling, thirteen Benefactions, per Treasurer, -	27	6	0
Mrs. Saltonstall, per Messrs. Hoares, two Benefactions, -	5	5	0
Miss Saltonstall, per ditto, two Benefactions, - -	5	5	0
Mrs. Samford, per Ransom and Co.	10	0	0
James Scawen, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	5	5	0
From Stapleton's, - -	2	2	0
Mr. James Snowdon, -	2	2	0
John Sunderland, Esq. -	2	2	0
* William Scullard, Esq. eight Benefactions, - -	16	16	0
Mrs. Says, four Benefactions, -	2	2	0
Mr. Nat. Smith, by J. W. -	2	2	0
Sympathy, - - - -	2	2	0
F. Sitwill, Esq. by Treasurer, -	5	5	0
** Isaac Serra, Esq. per ditto, -	21	0	0
** William Strobe, Esq. and Lady, two Benefactions, - -	71	0	0

T.

* The Right Hon. Earl Talbot, five Benefactions, - -	26	5	0
* John Thornton, Esq. late Vice President, 19 Benefactions, -	145	15	0
Samuel			

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Samuel Thornton, Esq. seven Benefactions, - -	56	15	0
* The Rev. George Tilson, -	6	6	0
Mr. Theophilus Tutt, -	10	10	0
* Robert Thompson, Esq. eighteen Benefactions, -	37	15	0
Benjamin Thomas, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	21	0	0
Mrs. Anna Maria Tracy, eight Benefactions, - -	28	7	0
William Townsend, Esq. five Benefactions, - - -	10	10	0
Two Gentlemen, - -	2	2	0
Three Ladies and one Gentleman, - - - -	4	4	0
T. C**n, - - - -	5	5	0
T. P. Esq. seven Benefactions, by Mr. Nelme, - -	87	11	0
James Tamez, Esq. of Moscow, two Benefactions, - -	45	0	0
Arthur Tyton, Esq. - -	6	6	0
Hon. Mrs. Trevor, - -	3	3	0
Mr. Alderman Trecothick, <i>deceased</i> , - - - -	10	10	0
Ten of the Exchequer Jurors, by M. D. - - - -	3	3	0
		Peter	

BENEFACCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Peter Terquhand, Esq. part of a Fine from a Custom-house Of- ficer, for an illegal Seizure, -	4	4	0
Mr. Alexander Tate, -	2	2	0
T. C. - - -	15	15	0
Robert Travis, Esq. -	5	5	0
Mr. John Turner, <i>deceased</i> , -	4	4	0
Two Middlesex Juries, -	8	0	0
Mrs. Turner, - -	3	3	0
Hon. Mrs. Temple, three Bene- factions, - - -	21	0	0
T. R. - - -	21	0	0
** Sir Robert Taylor, <i>deceased</i> , late Vice President, two Bene- factions, - - -	23	2	0
T. G. I. for I. Philips, Newgate,	15	0	0
** James ^{Jr} Taylor, Esq. two Be- nefactions, - - -	21	0	0
* Messrs. Theakstone and Welch- man, two Benefactions, -	8	8	0
* Lieut. Col. Trelawney, two Benefactions, - -	10	10	0
Andrew Thompson, Esq. per Sir Joseph Andrews, Bart. -	10	0	0
Rev. Sir Carer Vyvyan, Bart. per Messrs. Hoares, - -	2	2	0
			* Lord

BENEFACTIONS.

			£.	s.	d.
V.					
* Lord Vere,	-	-	5	5	0
* Francis Vincent, Esq. eight					
Benefactions,	-	-	16	16	0
James Vere, Esq.	-	-	3	3	0
Robert Udney, Esq.	-		5	5	0
Mr. James Unsworth, two Bene-					
factions,	-	-	4	4	0
Mr. Vaffels,	-	-	7	3	0
Unknown, by Mr. Nelme,	-		103	10	0
Unknown, by T. G.	-		100	0	0
Votiva Tabula, 5l. 5s. and for the					
Advertisement in the London					
Evening Post, 5s. 6d.	-		5	10	6
Hon. Mrs. Vanfittart, two Bene-					
factions, per Treasurer,	-	0	4	4	0
Unknown, by Messrs. Hoare and					
Co.	-	-	10	0	0
Ditto, by Mr. Siffon,	-		2	2	0
Ditto, by Mr. Wilson, per Hoares,			1	1	0
Ditto, by Dr. Markham,	-		5	5	0
Ditto, by P. Perchard,	-		3	3	0

W.

Edward Wheler, Esq. *deceased*, late
 Vice President, ten Benefactions, 59 17 0
 * Lord

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
* Lord Willoughby de Broke, fourteen Benefactions, -	145	15	0
Hon. H. Walpole, - -	20	0	0
Sir Timothy Waldo, <i>deceased</i> , by Dorrien and Co. two Benefac- tions, - - - -	26	5	0
* W. W. a Lady, by Mr. Nelme,	100	0	0
* s W. W. Esq. four Benefac- tions, by James Mathias, Esq.	200	0	0
* Hon. Mr. Justice Willes, -	5	5	0
* C. Wyville, Esq. Executor to Sir Marmaduke Wyville, -	50	0	0
* Samuel Watfon, Esq. four Be- nefactions, - - -	42	0	0
Mr. Henry Wright, <i>deceased</i> , six Benefactions, - -	12	12	0
* William Wilfon, Esq. two Be- nefactions, - - -	30	0	0
W. B. Esq. <i>deceased</i> , seven Bene- factions, by Mr. Nelme, -	240	0	0
The Right Rev. the Bishop of Winchester, <i>deceased</i> , -	10	10	0
Lady Windfor, - - -	10	10	0
Mrs. Wheler, <i>deceased</i> , -	5	5	0
Lady Laura Waldegrave, -	21	0	0
Mr. Isaac Walker, by Mr. Mathias,	5	5	0

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
James Whitechurch, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , five Benefactions, - - -	26	5	0
William Watson, Esq. three Be- nefactions, - - -	6	6	0
Mr. William Watson, per Sir William Wynne, - - -	10	0	0
* William Wilberforce, Esq. per the Hon. E. J. Eliot, - - -	2	2	0
Rev. Sherlock Willis, - - -	5	5	0
Mr. Thomas Williamson, two Benefactions, - - -	4	4	0
John Whiston, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	3	3	0
Messieurs Waddington, of Not- tingham, - - - -	2	2	0
Martin Wright, Esq. - - -	5	5	0
Mr. Wilford, <i>deceased</i> , -	3	3	0
Mr. Role Walter, - - -	10	0	0
W. W. - - - -	43	12	0
G. Wombwell, Esq. <i>deceased</i> , -	7	7	0
Mr. Emanuel Williams, -	4	4	0
Mr. James Willis, eight Benefac- tions, - - - -	16	16	0
Westminster Charity, by Sir Charles Whitworth, <i>deceased</i> , -	50	0	0
Mrs. White, - - - -	2	2	0
Isaac Walker, Esq. four Benefac- tions, - - - -	21	0	0

H

W. H.

BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
W. H. two Benefactions, by the			
Treasurer, - - -	100	0	0
Mr. George Wells, - - -	2	2	0
Mrs. Wrighten, three Benefactions, -	6	6	0
W. D. - - - -	21	0	0
W. H. - - - -	30	0	0
* George Woolff, Esq. three Benefactions, - - -	6	6	0
Jaques West, Esq. by Dorrien and Co. - - - -	2	2	0
Benjamin Waddington, Esq. two Benefactions, - - -	15	5	0
* James Ward, Esq. by Mr. Graffwell, two Benefactions, -	4	4	0
W. H. by ditto, - - -	50	0	0
Miss W. (Miss Wilkes) -	2	2	0
W. H. - - - -	100	0	0
S. W. (Samuel Waring, Esq.) six Benefactions, - - -	31	10	0
J. W. (Joseph Waring, Esq) five Benefactions, - - -	10	10	0

X.

X. X. Z. - - - -	100	0	0
X. X. per Treasurer, -	100	0	0
X. A. per Biddulph and Co. -	100	0	0

BENEFACTIONS.

£. s. d.

Y.

The Most Rev. Archbishop of			
York, two Benefactions,	-	20	10 0
Hon. Mr. York, two Benefactions,		20	10 0
Hon. Dowager Lady Young, two			
Benefactions,	- - -	40	0 0
Rev. Dr. Young, Prebend of			
Westminster,	- - -	2	2 0
(E. T. Y.) Mrs. Yates, Upper			
Seymour Street, Portland			
Place, annual,	- - -	5	5 0

*** Annual Benefactors may at any Time
recommmend Objects.

LIST OF HONORARY GOVERNORS.

Right Rev. Bishop of Peterborough.
 Right Rev. Bishop of Worcester.
 Right Rev. Beilby Lord Bishop of London.
 Rev. Dr. Glasfe.
 Rev. Dr. Coufins.

Rev.

A

LIST OF HONORARY GOVERNORS.

Rev. Dr. Owen.
Rev. Dr. Laughton.
Rev. Dr. Burnaby.
Rev. Dr. Seally.
Rev. Dr. Colne Milne.
Rev. Richard Harrison.
Rev. Weeden Butler.
Rev. John Hunt.
Rev. William Romaine.
Rev. — Field.
Rev. Herbert Jones.
Rev. John Wakefield.
Rev. J. C. Hubbard.
Rev. Mr. Peach.
Rev. R. B. Riland.
Rev. Basil Wood.
The Hon. Henry Hobart.
Edward Darrell, Esq.
Thomas Stallard Penoyre, Esq.
Jarvis Holland, Esq.
Mr. Sheriff Skinner.
Mr. Sheriff Turner.
Mr. Sheriff Curtis.
Mr. Champnes.
Mr. Wood.
Mr. Reinhold.
Mr. Hook.
Mr. Astley.

A

A summary View of the Money annually Expended by the SOCIETY for Relief

		No. of Debtors discharged	Expended		
			£.	s.	d.
1772 to 1774	_____	1722	4622	17	1
1775	_____	996	1724	1	11
1776	_____	673	1842	13	3
1777	_____	877	1729	19	7
1778	_____	779	1764	0	11
1779	_____	811	1611	15	3
1780	_____	628	1288	17	1
1781	_____	321	828	15	9
1782	_____	389	935	3	9
1783	_____	547	1121	12	0
1784	_____	535	996	12	3
1785	_____	463	904	9	1
Carried up		8741	Carried up £.	19,370	17 11

At an Annual General Court held the 1st of April, 1789, this Account was

James Neild, Esq. Treasurer
The Hon. Edward James Eliot
Sir Joseph Andrews, Bart.
Rev. Weeden Butler
Rev. John Hunt
William Strode, Esq.
Thomas Edwards Freeman, Esq.
John English Dolben, Esq.

Josiah Dornford, Esq.
Henry Bosanquet, Esq.
Thomas Adderly, Esq.
Frederick Mathew, Esq.
Mr. Thomas Dawes
Mr. William Faden
Mr. Charles Stuart
Mr. Samuel Welchman

THE AVERAGE for the above-mentioned 10745 Debtors is 21. 5s. 3½d. each; and the AVERAGE for the Debts of each Individual, is about 12s. 10½d.

††† These AVERAGES include every incidental Expenditure attending the Management and Distributions of the Charity.

It is probable, that the Public Benevolence has been dispensed to *double the Number* of real Objects, because the Families of many Creditors being themselves in very necessitous Circumstances, were also essentially benefited by the COMPOSITION, which they accepted instead of the Debts due to them.

The Society never pay the WHOLE DEBT; yet to prevent future litigation, the Creditors are required to give FULL DISCHARGES.

From the great *Number* of Debtors discharged, compared with the *small Sums* paid for each, it is manifest, that those poor Manufacturers Seamen, and Servants, who have been the peculiar Objects of the Society's Attention, are in the humblest Rank of Society; their Debts were too small and too few to entitle them to the Benefits derived from any of the Acts hitherto calculated to relieve Insolvent Debtors; the Society have therefore generally compounded their Debts, and paid their Fees, after a Writ of Execution had issued.

The *Time of Imprisonment* may be Months, or even YEARS, before such Objects can have Relief from Insolvent Acts of Parliament; it follows therefore, that so long a Confinement from their Families and Employments, would be attended with Consequences, very fatal to those Families, injurious to their Employers, and particularly burthensome to their several *Parishes*; who, whilst the Husband is in Prison, must relieve and often maintain the unhappy Wife and Offspring.

In *some* Prisons, the distressed Debtor is obliged to associate with Felons, the Depravity of whose Morals, in every View, but too frequently influences the Dispositions of those Debtors with whom they converse; and who, untill such destructive fascinating Connections, were not abandoned to Vice, though perhaps imprudent.

To *such* Debtors, the Society have ever shewn a *fraternal* Regard, by rescuing them as soon as possible from an Imprisonment, infectious both to Body and Mind; thus preserving their Families from becoming Vagabonds, or chargeable to the Parish, and restoring to Manufactures, to Agriculture and Trade many laborious Hands; who, with regard to their Exertions in Society,

Persons disposed to contribute to the Support of this Charity, may see the Books of the Society's Transactions, and receive BENEFACCTIONS are received by Mr. Neild, Treasurer, St. James's-Street; Sir Robert Herries and Co. Ditto; Messrs. Dorrien and Co. Finch-Lane, Cornhill; Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Han-

Relief of Debtors, from the Institution in 1772, to the 31st of March 1789.

No. of Debtors discharged		Expended		
		£.	s.	d.
Brought up	8741	for the Sum of 19,370	17	4
1786	339	715	8	9
1787	343	749	0	10
1788	710	1566	4	2½
1789	612	1926	3	3½

10745
Who had 6676 Wives
and 20317 Children.

37738 { Persons immediately
benefited for } 24327 14 11½

unt was examined, agreed to, and signed by the Members present.

The Right Honourable LORD ROMNEY, *President*.

The Right Honourable EARL RADNOR,

The Right Honourable LORD VISCOUNT BEAUCHAMP,

The Honourable PHILIP PUSEY,

SIR CHARLES MIDDLETON, Bart.

} *Vice-Presidents.*

R. GRASSWELL, *Secretary*.

are ultimately the *Nerves*, the *Strength* and *Riches* of a Nation; inasmuch as, their Labour efficiently, though almost imperceptibly, contributes to the Welfare of every Individual in the superior Orders of Life.

Influenced by these clear Principles, founded not only upon sound Policy and true Philanthropy, but above all, upon the benevolent Principles of genuine Christianity, the SOCIETY hope, by the Bounty of the Public, to be enabled to persevere in relieving those Debtors who may be found *worthy*, *distressed*, and *friendless*: Men, whose Earnings, even when in Employment, can often afford but a bare Subsistence; but who, unemployed, must either contract Debts, or fly with Despondency to illicit Means, as the only Resource from starving.

It is a very material Wish of the SOCIETY for DEBTORS, to diffuse the public Liberality as far as to extend to all the Country Gaols, where a Prisoner is frequently confined at a Distance of 18 or 20 Miles from his Place of Abode. The Creditor, for want of importunity, forgets him; and the miserable Being himself can receive no temporary Relief from his Family or his Friends.

To obtain Benefit from this Charity, each Petitioner is obliged to name two reputable Housekeepers, as Vouchers for his Integrity, Sobriety, and Industry; to whom the Society constantly refer their Inquiries, and by this Means, preclude almost the possibility of Imposition.

No Debtor can be relieved a *second* Time, unless it be evidently made appear, that his Confinement arises not from his own Fault.

It is a *fixed Rule* of the Society, never to pay more than a Composition for any Debts, wherein the Lawyer's Bills are never included.

Plaintiffs must always be Losers by a Prosecution for Debt, though more or less so, according to their Circumstances. This the Society ever take into Consideration: and it is a principal Object of their Attention, to demonstrate to the lower Class of People the exceeding Folly of being so stimulated by their Passions, as to go to Law with Fellow Creatures, poor and miserable as themselves!

N. B. On the *Discharge* of each Debtor, a *printed Exhortation* is given, calculated for their Comfort and Direction in Life, as a last parting Testimony of the Society's sincere Wish for their future Welfare.

* * The Act of 1778, no Way impedes the usual legal Process for any small Sums.

, and receive any further Information, by enquiring of the Secretary, at No. 7, Craven Street, Strand.

Ditto; Messrs. Hoares, Fleet-Street; Messrs. Fullers, Lombard-Street; Messrs. Biddulph and Co. Charing-Cross; Messrs. and Hammersley, Pall-Mall; and at No. 7, Craven-Street, Strand.